DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

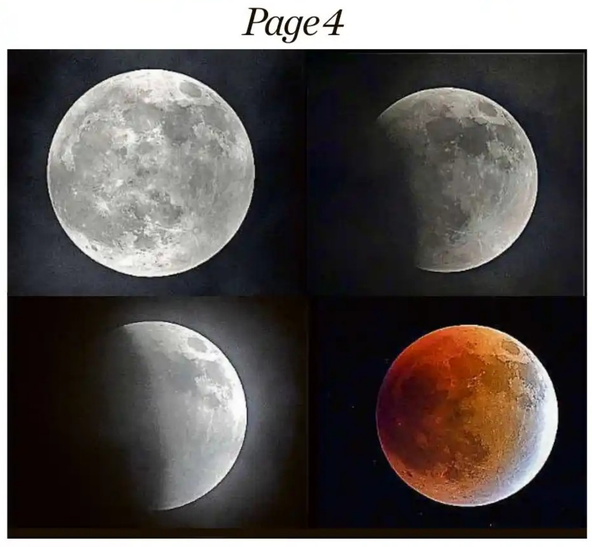
Sabalenka's New York coronation

Belarusian beats Anisimova for second consecutive US Open crown

Page 13

Bengalureans' date with Red Moon

Page 4



LAST THREE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POLLS RESULTS

2022

Jagdeep Dhankhar **528**

Margaret Alva **182**

Electoral College: 780
Votes Cast: **725 (92.95%)**

2017

Venkaiah Naidu **516**

Gopalkrishna Gandhi **244**

Electoral College: 785
Votes Cast: **771 (98.21%)**

2012

M Hamid Ansari **490**

Jaswant Singh **238**

Electoral College: 790
Votes Cast: **736 (93.16%)**

NDA, Oppn eye cross-voting in high-pitch VP battle tomorrow

Both sides aim to boost narrative; 11 BJD & BRS MPs, 7 others on the fence

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

SCENARIO IN VP POLLS

781
(7 seats vacant)
Electoral college

439 NDA
324 Opposition

18 Lawmakers yet to make decision

Maha Guv **C P Radhakrishnan** (NDA)

Former SC judge **B Sudershan Reddy** (Oppn)

With preparations for Tuesday's vice-presidential election in full swing, both the ruling NDA and the Opposition are locked in an intense battle even as 18 MPs, including from BJD and BRS, are yet to reveal their choice.

On paper, the NDA nominee, Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, is convincingly ahead against the Opposition candidate, former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy, with a score 439-324 if all MPs vote on party lines. This is without taking into account the 18 undecided lawmakers.

Seven MPs from BJD, four from BRS, one each from BSP, Akali Dal, ZPM and VOTTP as well as three independents are yet to give a clear indication of their preference. The number of eligible voters at present is 781, with seven vacancies, including Shibu Soren who died after the electoral roll was prepared.

BJD's Sasmit Patra and BRS' K Suresh Reddy told *DH* separately that a decision will be taken by the party leadership while BSP, ZPM and VOTTP MPs have not responded to queries. The independent MPs and the lone Akali Dal lawmaker could not be contacted.

While AAP, which left the I.N.D.I.A bloc, has pledged the support of its ten MPs to Justice Reddy, non-aligned YSR Congress has pledged the support of its 11 lawmakers for Radhakrishnan. Both sides are hoping for cross-voting, as it is a secret vote, that will enhance their narrative.

Pitching the battle as one of Constitution versus RSS-BJP, the Opposition has been targeting TDP, YSR Congress and Janasena MPs by referring to Justice Reddy being a Telugu and other political reasons.

On Sunday, Congress Lok Sabha Whip Manickam Tagore referred to YSR Congress Lok Sabha floor leader Mithun Reddy getting bail in a case and asked him whether he would vote for the candidate of TDP and BJP, which sent him to jail, or Justice Reddy, who is "fighting to protect the Constitution".

Sources said the Opposition, irrespective of the results, believes its narrative will have a resonance, as it anticipates some cross-voting.

▸ VP poll, Page 5

B'luru firm hunts gold in C'magaluru

Seeks to drill boreholes in 5,600 acres of forest in Tarikere

DH EXCLUSIVE

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state Forest Department is set to consider a request from a Bengaluru-based company to drill boreholes to prospect for gold in 10,100 acres in Tarikere, Chikkamagaluru district, including 5,600 acres of forest that is home to leopards, sloth bears, elephants among other animals.

Documents show that the Department of Mines and Geology has given a composite licence to Aurum Geo Exploration Private Limited to prospect gold in 10,082 acres of land, of which 5,600 acres is forest area and another 3,600 acres is agriculture land.

According to the letter submitted by the company, the study of rock layers in the area was beset with difficulty due to dense forest. "The stratigraphic classification of the belt is beset with considerable difficulty owing to its wide aerial extent, dense and inaccessible forest," the document said, listing other difficulties.

Aurum won the tender floated by the Mines department last year. Previous assessments put the gold at "significant value" of 19 gram per tonne to 80 gram per tonne.

"Old workings for gold have been reported at Singanamane, Tambadihalli, Gonibidu and Honnuhatti of Hosuru," the document said.

Part of the project involves drilling 100 boreholes across the landscape to further assess the amount of gold per tonne to ensure the project's viability.

"Measures will be taken to minimise the pollution (if any) during the trenching and drilling operations. All pits and trenches will be closed properly and boreholes will be plugged using concrete. The entire land will be brought back to its original setting," the company added.

An official, on the condition of anonymity, told *DH* that they were surprised to see the application.

"These hills are a critical wildlife habitat, acting as a buffer to the Western Ghats. Even the agricultural lands here are shared spaces where wild animals traverse during the night to access nearby forests," an official said.

Veeresh G, honorary wildlife warden from Chikkamagaluru, said even the exploration activity will have an impact on the wildlife.

▸ Gold, Page 5

LURE OF YELLOW METAL

Mines dept has given composite licence to Aurum Geo Exploration to prospect gold; now application is before forest dept

- Old workings for gold have been reported at Singanamane, Tambadihalli, Gonibidu and Honnuhatti of Hosuru, the firm said
- Part of the project involves drilling 100 boreholes across the landscape to further assess the amount of gold per tonne to ensure the project's viability
- An official said movement of heavy machinery and drilling will definitely have an impact on the fauna

Bidkallapa Gudda in the forests surrounding Tarikere in Chikkamagaluru.

Traffic signals rise as vehicles choke inner roads

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's notorious traffic congestion, a feature of its main roads, is now choking inner streets as well due to mushrooming apartment complexes and the resulting surge in vehicle population.

According to traffic police, 50 new traffic signals were added in just three months in Bengaluru, a sign of worsening vehicular congestion, taking the total number of signals in the city to over 500.

Some of the areas where signals were installed include Chandrika junction, Ideal Homes junction, Jayanna Circle, New Horizon College back side, Attiguppe junction, Koli farm gate (Bannerghatta Road), among others.

The signals were installed following a detailed analysis of vehicle volume in these areas.

"The installation of new signals was taken up based on the recommendation by our local officials. They opined that there was a need to bring some order at these junctions since the congestion had increased over time," said Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner (Traffic).

Vehicle users have been raising concerns that many inner roads that were once free from vehicular congestion are now experiencing severe gridlocks, especially during the evening peak hours.

▸ Traffic signals, Page 5

New toll strategy

Karnataka is planning to introduce toll charges on future elevated corridors and double-decker roads in Bengaluru, marking a shift in how upcoming infrastructure will be funded. P2

State sanctions land for Quantum City

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government has allocated 6.17 acres at Hesaraghatta in northwestern Bengaluru for establishing a Quantum City (Q-City), which will have state-of-the-art labs, incubation facilities for start-ups and infrastructure for academic-industry collaboration, Science and Technology Minister N S Boseraju has said.

The land sanction fulfils the commitment made by the government during India's first Quantum India Bengaluru Conclave. The approval was given on September 3, Boseraju stated on Sunday.

By 2035, Karnataka aims to build a $20 billion quantum economy through bold initiatives in quantum computing.

In addition, eight acres have been sanctioned to expand the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS-TIFR).

This will support academic and research growth in theoretical sciences and for the growth of industries in the second and third phases of the Q-City development.

▸ Quantum City, Page 5

6.17 acres govt land at Hesaraghatta allotted for Q-City

Q-City will have...

- State-of-the-art laboratories
- Incubation facilities for start-ups
- infrastructure for academic-industry collaboration

Tension in Maddur during idol procession

MADDUR (MANDYA DIST), DHNS: Eight people were injured after stones were allegedly thrown at a Ganesha idol immersion procession at Maddur in Mandya district on Sunday night.

A few unidentified miscreants threw stones at the procession when it reached near a mosque around 8pm. In retaliation, another group threw stones on the mosque, leading to a clash between two groups.

Leaders of both faiths gathered on the spot even as the police struggled to disperse the crowd.

Police officials pacified the leaders from both sides and brought the situation under control. Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi visited the spot and additional forces have been deployed in the town.

Details on Page 5

CONTINENTAL GLORY

Captain Harmanpreet Singh lifts the Asia Cup trophy after India beat Korea 4-1 in the final in Rajgir, Bihar, on Sunday. The win helped India seal a place in next year's World Cup. PTI

Report on Page 14

In a first, Russia targets Ukraine govt building in biggest attack

KYIV (UKRAINE), AGENCIES

Russia hit Ukraine's capital with drone and missiles on Sunday in the largest aerial attack on the country since the war began, killing at least two people and leaving smoke rising from the roof of a key government building.

The Sunday attack was the first to hit Ukraine's cabinet of ministers, a sprawling government complex at the heart of Kyiv. Drone strikes also damaged several high-rise buildings in Kyiv.

Russia said it had struck a plant and a logistics hub in Kyiv.

"For the first time, the government building was damaged by an enemy attack, including the roof and upper floors," said Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko. "We will restore the buildings, but lost lives cannot be returned."

Russia fired at least 810 drones and 13 missiles at Ukraine between late Saturday and early Sunday, in a new record, according to the Ukrainian air force. Ukraine shot down and neutralised 747 drones and 4 missiles.

"Such killings now, when real diplomacy could have already begun long ago, are a deliberate crime and a prolongation of the war," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

He discussed the attack in a call with French President Emmanuel Macron and said that France would help Ukraine strengthen its defence.

A Ukrainian government building is on fire in Kyiv following an attack. AFP

GST impact: Carmakers announce price cut from Sept 22

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Days after the GST Council approved rate rationalisation, leading carmakers in the country, including Hyundai, Tata Motors, Mahindra, Toyota and Renault, have announced reduction in prices of their vehicles and reiterated the commitment to fully pass on the benefits of tax cut to customers.

Hyundai announced on Sunday that it will cut car prices by up to Rs 2.4 lakh effective from September 22, the date the revised GST rates are slated to come into effect.

Tata Motors announced upto Rs 4.65 lakh cut in prices of commercial vehicles.

Details on Page 10

Political turmoil in Japan as PM Ishiba resigns

TOKYO, AP: Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced on Sunday that he will resign following growing calls from within his party to take responsibility for the defeat in July's parliamentary election, plunging the country into political uncertainty.

Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba

Ishiba, who took office in October, in press conference said he was stepping down as prime minister and as the head of his conservative Liberal Democratic Party.

Details on Page 12

CITRUS KICK

Coming soon, tea outlets powered by Kagzi lemon

DH SPECIAL

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

SIP THE DIFFERENCE

Karnataka lime board wants to model lemon tea outlets after KMF's Nandini

- These outlets will offer by-products such as lemon powder sachets, juice and pickles
- The move is expected to bring in much-needed revenue for both board and local farmers
- Kagzi lemon is known for its thin rind, abundant juice and high ascorbic acid content

Customers will soon be able savour the goodness and unique flavour of Kagzi lemon at scores of lemon tea outlets across Karnataka.

The Karnataka State Lime Development Board (KSLDB) plans to open outlets to popularise lemon tea on the lines of Darjeeling and Assam teas, as it looks to cash in on Geographical Indication (GI) tag granted to the lemon grown in Indi taluk of Vijayapura district.

The board wants to model the outlets after the Karnataka Milk Federation's Nandini. Alongside tea, the outlets will offer by-products such as lemon powder sachets, juice and pickles. The move is expected to bring in much-needed revenue for both the board and local farmers, many of whom have suffered crop losses due to extreme weather events in recent years.

"We will adopt Karnataka Milk Federation bylaws in opening the lemon tea points at crowded public places, including bus stands, railway stations and airports across the state," said H S Patil, Managing Director of KSLDB. The board is off to an auspicious start as its pilot lemon tea point in Indi town in July received an overwhelming public response.

Known for its thin rind, abundant juice and high ascorbic acid content, Kagzi lemon has seen a spike in demand across the country, and is now being exported to Australia and the UAE. Encouraged by the success of the pilot, more than 10 individuals have come forward to open similar tea points across Vijayapura district.

▸ Lemon, Page 5

Quickly

3 students from B'luru drown in Arabian Sea

Three students from a Bengaluru college drowned while swimming in Arabian Sea at Charkikadu beach in Kundapura taluk on Sunday. The deceased students have been identified as Gautham (19), Lokesh (19), and Ashish (18).

Details on Page 5

Mayawati eyes UP comeback

Reduced almost to the fringes in UP politics, BSP supremo Mayawati on Sunday hinted at undertaking significant moves to revive the party ahead of the forthcoming panchayat polls and the next Assembly elections, due in 2027.

Details on Page 8

US lobbyist hired by India meets Trump

Political lobbyist Jason Miller, whose lobbying was hired by India, has met US President Donald Trump and a few officials of his administration. Miller was hired by the Indian Embassy reportedly for $1.8 mn for a year.

Details on Page 12

Anti-dam activist stopped at Delhi airport

Bhanu Tatak, an anti-dam activist from Arunachal Pradesh, was on Sunday detained at Delhi airport and stopped from taking her flight to Ireland. She was en route to take part in a three-month fellowship.

Details on Page 9

RSS backs dialogue over Mathura, Kashi

The RSS, in a statement on Sunday, said that the solution to the Kashi-Mathura issues would not be "sought through conflict or agitation, but through legal and mutual dialogue".

Details on Page 8

4 MLCs nominated

The four vacant posts in the Karnataka Legislative Council were officially filled on Sunday, giving the Congress simple majority in the Council. The nominated MLCs are Aarathi Krishna, Ramesh Babu, F H Jakkappanavar and Shivakumar K.

Details on Page 4

Over 95% of BBMP-approved buildings lack occupancy certificates, finds probe

Investigation undertaken by Justice Nagmohan Das Commission

HOMBAL NB & NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A staggering gap between building approvals and legal occupancy has come to light in Bengaluru following an investigation by the HN Justice Nagmohan Das Commission.

The now-defunct Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had approved 36,236 building plans by May 2025, but only 1,504 have been granted occupancy certificates (OCs), which are mandatory for lawful habitation.

The stark difference shows how property owners in the city are violating building byelaws as if they don't exist, while some describe the norms as "very stringent". There is also a perception that obtaining an occupancy certificate is difficult without greasing the palms of officials.

In its report submitted to the state government, the one-man commission — tasked with examining various BBMP projects — noted that only 4.15% of the total buildings obtained OCs, indicating regulatory failure.

The now-defunct BBMP had approved 36,236 building plans by May 2025, but only 1,504 have been granted occupancy certificates, which are mandatory for lawful habitation.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

In some BBMP zones, especially in the north, the gap between building approvals and OC issuance is huge, the report has noted.

The commission has observed both serious lapses in the town planning department and loss of revenue.

Besides recommending disciplinary action against the officers concerned, the investigators pointed out that the department did not provide complete records during the investigation and believed the actual figures could be even more concerning.

Sources in the BBMP said that 4.15% of buildings that have received OCs may belong mostly to reputable builders who have complied with building norms. Smaller plots, they said, generally skip obtaining occupancy certificates since the BBMP Act allows property tax to be collected from every building — even those occupied without an OC or completion certificate. While the act initially recommended collecting double the tax on such buildings, this provision was eventually removed.

In December 2024, the Supreme Court mandated that no essential utility services, be it electricity, water, or sewage be provided to buildings without valid completion or occupancy certificates.

This ruling was aimed at curbing illegal constructions across India.

As the ruling left many property owners in a fix, the now-dissolved BBMP proposed that the government consider waiving the mandatory requirement for occupancy certificates for buildings constructed on plots smaller than 1,200 square feet. The government is yet to make a decision on the proposal.

Norms difficult to follow, say builders

While building violations are rampant in Bengaluru, builders argue that the norms are too stringent to follow. Complying fully, they said, often means surrendering nearly 20% of the plot area.

"No one wants a 10x10 bedroom anymore," one builder said, adding that the tendency to violate rules stems from skyrocketing land prices and construction costs in Bengaluru.

Builders believe that compliance would improve if norms were relaxed, especially for plots ranging from 1,200 to 10,000 square feet.

Land acquisition underway for 2-km tunnel to bypass Hebbal flyover

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) has begun acquiring land for a six-lane underground road designed to help motorists bypass the choked Hebbal flyover.

The two-km stretch, different from the proposed 16-km tunnel between north and south Bengaluru, will not be tolled, officials confirmed.

A notification stated that eight properties, spread across 7,241 sqm, will be acquired to build the road from Hebbal flyover to Hebbal Veterinary College on Ballari Road. B-SMILE will also temporarily take over land belonging to the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) and the Veterinary College.

Planned as a bidirectional bypass, the road will link Mehkri Circle and the airport. It will have an exit point next to Hebbal Lake on Ballari Road and an entry point near Esteem Mall for vehicles heading towards the city. Similarly, an entry and exit point have been proposed near the petrol bunk after Baptist Hospital.

The design is reportedly prepared by Rodic Consultants, the agency that had also done the 16-km tunnel road between Hebbal and Central Silk Board.

Officials said the underground road will be built using the cut-and-cover method without deploying a tunnel boring machine.

"The northern part of the city has seen new commercial and residential layouts, including the Shivaram Karanth Layout, and residents requested a short bypass at the junction," said BS Prahallad , Technical Director, B-SMILE.

The project was reviewed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during the recent inauguration of a 750-metre elevated loop at Hebbal Junction.

However, experts said the tunnel may not significantly ease congestion since much traffic snarls are seen below the flyover, particularly vehicles crossing the Outer Ring Road towards Tumakuru and KR Puram. The entry point of the under-bridge at Mehkri Circle is also congested, and concerns remain that the project could delay the Sarjapura–Hebbal Metro line, which will run underground.

A choked Hebbal flyover.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

B-SMILE gets five engineers

The government has deputed five Assistant Executive Engineers to B-SMILE as it prepares to handle major infrastructure projects.

BS Prahallad has also been appointed Engineer-in-Chief of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), while continuing as Technical Director of B-SMILE in an ex-officio role.

Upcoming elevated corridors, double-decker roads to be tolled

Not applicable to existing or under-construction projects

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is planning to introduce toll charges on future elevated corridors and double-decker roads in Bengaluru, marking a shift in how upcoming infrastructure will be funded.

The new approach, not applicable to existing or under-construction projects, is being considered as the government aims to launch new projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore in one go, including 40 km of tunnel roads, 38 km of double-decker corridors, and a mix of flyovers and underpasses totalling about 124 km.

While the government has agreed to double its funding to bear a part of the project cost, the balance will either be borne by the private concessionaire under the build–own–operate–transfer (BOOT) model or raised through loans.

Since Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE), which will be undertaking these projects, does not have its own revenue source, the Finance Department has suggested a tolling mechanism to repay loan commitments.

Confirming this, B-SMILE Technical Director BS Prahallad said the agency was exploring various funding models.

"We are doubling capacity on 200 km of high-density corridors, keeping in mind the traffic congestion and increase in vehicle population. Since the government is partly funding the projects, tolling is the best way to raise resources. It is also equivalent to congestion charges," he said.

B-SMILE has already proposed a toll of Rs 19 per km for the 16.5-km Hebbal-Silk Board tunnel road, which is in an advanced stage of implementation. When complete, commuters could pay over Rs 600 for a round trip. Tolling rates for the elevated corridors and double-decker roads are yet to be finalised.

While the 124-km projects comprising stretches such as Yeshwantpur-KR Puram, Nagawara-Bagalur, Ragigudda-Kanakapura Main Road etc. are still in the conceptual stage, with consultants preparing detailed project reports, the double-decker proposal recently received state cabinet approval.

Project funds

As per the plan, the state will contribute Rs 3,880 crore and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is expected to chip in Rs 970 crore. B-SMILE will raise half the project cost through loans and clear the dues by levying toll charges.

Government officials argue the city has little choice, pointing to peak-hour speeds that have dropped to 17 kmph and a vehicle population that has nearly doubled in the past decade.

Plans not too grand: Experts

Mobility experts are not happy with the grand plans.

"With metro and suburban rail projects on the backburner, Bengaluru will see a bleak future in terms of livability. Building car-centric projects, including flyovers, is outdated. Even a well-paid professional will think 100 times before spending Rs 20,000 a month as toll charges on the tunnel road. The government's ultimate focus should be to reduce the usage of private vehicles," said Ashish Verma, professor of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Orientation programme at Nimhans

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Nimhans) will organise an orientation programme on Monday and Tuesday about accreditation standards in quality and safety in patient care for institutions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Ministry Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava will inaugurate the programme.

The executive directors of all AIIMS institutions will participate in a half-day awareness programme, followed by a one-and-half-day programme on orientation to accreditation standards and preparedness targeting medical superintendents and senior patient care executives.

The programme will focus on the eight-year NABH accreditation journey of Nimhans and provide practical insights about the approach to accrediting their own institutions.

At NLSIU convocation, graduates urged to carry forward law, legacy & hope

BENGALURU, DHNS

At its 33rd annual convocation on Sunday, the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) conferred degrees on 1,557 students across academic programmes.

The batch included 287 on-campus and 1,270 off-campus graduates from PhD, Master of Public Policy, Master of Laws and other courses. Notably, the first batch of three-year LLB (Hons) graduates also passed out, including a Rhodes Scholar.

Ranked first in the NIRF Law category for the eighth consecutive year, NLSIU has, over the past five years, shifted from a teaching-heavy to a research-driven model, easing teaching loads while introducing new research policies, incentives and funding.

Graduating students celebrate with a joyful cap toss at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) on Sunday.

The convocation was attended by Supreme Court Judge Justice Surya Kant, Bar Council of India Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, and TN Ninan, former chairperson and editor of *Business Standard*.

Justice Kant described law as a tool for transformation, calling graduates "social engineers", who must use their knowledge to serve society. He urged them to define careers through integrity, success, and legacy.

"As you rise, your duty is to mentor, challenge exclusion, and create opportunities. Your legacy depends on the impact you leave on others," he said.

Ninan praised NLSIU for producing graduates with integrity and values of public service. He underlined the symbiotic bond between journalism and the judiciary, stressing the role of freedom of speech and specialised legal reporting in building public trust in courts.

Mishra reminded graduates that law is a trust, not a trade. "The true worth of a lawyer lies in defending the voiceless, preserving freedom, and upholding dignity — not money or titles," he said.

Student representative Vibha Swaminathan called graduation both an ending and a beginning, bound by hope.

"Hope fuels the imagination of better futures... drawn from past leaders and movements who fought for justice at great cost," she said.

25 students receive 52 gold medals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Twenty-five graduates received 52 gold medals at the National Law School of India University's annual convocation on Sunday.

Radhika Singhal, a five-year BA LLB graduate, bagged 10 medals, including University First Rank and Best All-Round Graduating Student. "We all came to NLSIU as young, unassuming 18-year-olds and found our purpose through the help of everyone here," she said.

Shreyas Sinha received five medals, including Best Outgoing Student and Young Leader of the Year. "This ceremony marks the end of a chapter, but also the beginning of a new one," he said.

(L-R) Shivi Dangi, Radhika Singhal and Shreyas Sinha. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

Shivi Dangi won four medals, among them awards for Criminal Law, Constitutional Law and Most Deserving Female Student. "These five years have been nourishing and have made me who I am," she said.

The university also honoured top performers in Postgraduate Diploma programmes and awarded Niharika Mukharjee the gold medal for the HM Seervai Essay Competition in Constitutional Law.

FROM RAP TO WARDROBE TALES

St Joseph's lit fest celebrates storytelling in every form

BENGALURU, DHNS

St Joseph's College of Commerce hosted its annual intercollegiate literary festival, 'Vividha 2025', from August 20 to 22.

Themed 'Anatomy of Emotions', the three-day event drew 355 participants from 15 city colleges.

The festival offered literary competitions, workshops, a student panel, and theatre performances.

Rapper and artist Pasha Bhai inaugurated the event with his talk 'Dil Se Dakhini', exploring performance and language identity.

Other sessions featured author Mala Kumar on children's literature and imagination, poet Jiju Philip with an interactive poetry session, Maryanne Pais on inner narratives, Shruthi Anand with a doodle workshop, and Shabari Rao on dance as storytelling beyond words.

Theatre was central, with the Hashmi Theatre Forum staging Jean Giraudoux's 'The Madwoman of Chaillot', directed by TH Lavakumar.

A special attraction was a curated museum titled 'The Wardrobe', where garments donated by students and faculty became vehicles of memory and storytelling.

"The events pushed us to think differently, the workshops opened new ways of perception, and the museum made me emotional. 'Vividha' felt like a celebration of both art and life," said a participant from Christ University.

Students of the Hashmi Theatre Forum staged Jean Giraudoux's '*The Madwoman of Chaillot*'.

'RAJENDRA SINHJI ARMY OFFICERS' INSTITUTE
(HQ K & K Sub Area Officers Mess Annexe)
50 MG Road, Bangalore - 560 001

Call for Quotations

Sealed quotations are invited from reputed vendors & suppliers for "Civil Works (Repair of Roof), supply & installation of Dish Washing Machine (Heavy duty) at RSAOI, Bangalore". Details are available at -https://rsaoibangalore.in/download/ forms.

IDEMI
Organized By IDEMI, Mumbai, Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Government Certificate course on
Artificial Intelligence for Film Making and Content Creation
Course Duration: 5 Days
Course Timing- 7.30 pm to 9 pm
((ONLINE))
Course Date- 15 Sept to 19 Sept.2025
Email ID: training@idemi.org Website: www. Idemi.org Ph.:[022] 2405 0301/2/3/4
Contect: ◆ Using and understanding Ai from basics to advanced and using free tools for Concept development ◆ Script or idea sketch ◆ Shot planning ◆ Camera framing and angles ◆ Lighting setup Location selection ◆ Outfit and styling ◆ Makeup and grooming ◆ Voiceover recording ◆ Background music selection ◆ On-screen text and captions ◆ Transitions and cuts ◆ Color filters and grading ◆ Slow motion or time-lapse ◆ Green screen use ◆ Face tracking and AR filters ! Sound effects ◆ Lip-sync accuracy ◆ Trend adaptation ◆ Hook in the first 3 seconds ◆ Call-to-action (CTA) placement ◆ Loop design (seamless repeat) ◆ Hashtag strategy◆ Thumbnail and cover design ◆ Storytelling in under 30 seconds ◆ B-roll and overlay usage ◆ Multicam or angle variation ◆ Engagement prompts (like polls/questions) ◆ Upload timing strategy ◆ Performance tracking and analytics
With hands on practical
Course Fees- 3000+18 % GST(Fees are not refundable)
For Whom: Filmmaker, Director, Content Creator, Cinematographer, Editor, Scriptwriter, Actor, Influencer, Vlogger, Social Media Manager, students and interested candidates.
After Successful Completion Certificate Will be Issued
Call for details between 10 am to 6 pm
Contact-9403566219, 8007765693, 9869087617

BANK OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS HOUSE BUILDING CO OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.
No.599/A, Narayananagara 1st Block, Doddakallasandra Post, Kanakapura road, Bengaluru - 560062. Phone No. 080 23200329.
e-mail:boohbcs198@gmail.com

Tender Invitation for construction of APARTMENTS.

We hereby inviting bids from reputed builders with vast experience, adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipment and technical manpower with a valid construction license for Construction of Apartments, under a Joint Venture agreement with the Bank Officers & Officials House Building Co-operative Society Ltd.
NAME OF WORK: Construction of Apartment complex.
DETAILS OF QUOTE REQUIRED: sharing pattern, possible list of amenities and tenure of completion.
AREA & LOCATION: Freehold vacant and Government acquired land in favour of above said society, measuring about 4 acres 32 Guntas located at NARAYANANAGARA, DODDAKALLASANDRA VILLAGE, KANAKAPURA ROAD, BANGALORE-62.
FOR SITE VISIT APPOINTMENT CALL PHONE No. 080 23200329.
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS: 23-09-2025 upto 4.30 pm.
The bids can be directly handed over in a sealed cover to the Chief Executive Officer during the office hours (10-30 am to 5.30 pm) on working days.
The bids will be opened on 26.09.2025.
ANY DETAILS REQUIRED IN THIS REGARD CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BANK OFFICERS & OFFICIALS HOUSE BUILDING COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED during office hours.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Chief Executive
BO & OHBCS Ltd.

Date: 08-09-2025
Place: Bengaluru

PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner. Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @ deccanherald.co.in

Many roads in Tatanagar are full of potholes.

Crater on road in Tatanagar

Many roads in Tatanagar are full of potholes. The junction of 11th Main and 5th Cross has a big crater in the centre of the road. Here, vehicle users find it difficult to navigate the road, which is very narrow.

During rainy days, this place becomes a swimming pool. We have seen minor accidents taking place at regular intervals. Even the 7th Cross has many potholes. I request the BBMP to address the issues at the earliest.

SSMS Murthy
Tatanagar

Garbage under stationary vehicles

On 3rd Main Road in Ramanjaneya Nagar, a number of vehicles have been parked for a long time. As a result, the BBMP (now GBA) staff have expressed their inability to clear garbage deposited under these parked vehicles. The accumulated garbage on both sides of the road poses a health hazard to the general public.

The authorities concerned are requested to take suitable action in the matter.

KV Seetharamaiah

HC fines woman Rs 2L for false missing person plea

Police report shows 'missing' son was in constant touch with petitioner mother

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has imposed a fine of Rs 2 lakh on a Bengaluru resident for filing a writ petition of habeas corpus with "ulterior motive" and "without any bonafides" to harass the police.

Kriplani M

The court dismissed the petition after a police report revealed the "missing" person was in constant touch with his family.

The petitioner, Maheshwari M, had approached the court seeking a writ of habeas corpus to produce her son, Kriplani M, whom she claimed had been missing since July 7. This was her second such petition, with the first having been withdrawn earlier on the grounds of "erroneous statements".

However, upon investigation, the police traced Kriplani to a hotel in Chennai on August 5 and produced him before the court. The subsequent report exposed a detailed timeline of events, supported by Call Detail Record (CDR). The report showed that Kriplani was in constant contact with his mother (the petitioner), his sister, and a friend.

The police report further revealed that the petition was not filed out of genuine concern, but rather as an act of personal vengeance against the Indiranagar police.

The motive stemmed from a previous complaint by Kriplani against his neighbour, whom he accused of cultivating ganja. The Indiranagar police, after due inquiry, had issued an endorsement, which had apparently dissatisfied the detenue.

The police also stated that Kriplani had assaulted a police officer in Chennai who was attempting to produce him before the high court. An FIR was registered against him at the Semmancheri police station in Chennai.

The court dismissed the petition and imposed the costs of Rs 2 lakh on the petitioner. The amount has been directed to be paid within two weeks, with Rs 1 lakh to be deposited with the Karnataka Legal Services Authority and the remaining Rs 1 lakh to the Karnataka Police Benevolent Fund. The court also warned that failure to deposit the amount would result in contempt proceedings.

Job fair for seniors

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Nightingales Empowerment Foundation and Nightingales Medical Trust, in association with St Joseph's University and the Archdiocese of Bangalore, organised a job fair for senior citizens on Sunday.

The event was aimed at addressing financial insecurity among the growing elderly population, which is expected to double to 300 million by 2047. Currently, 75% of India's 150 million senior citizens are financially dependent, and 89% have no pension coverage.

The job fair featured 60 employers with over 630 vacancies in engineering, marketing, administration, accounts, supervisory roles, security and more. There were also over 500 opportunities for self-employment through insurance streams. Around 1,000 senior citizens participated, and 348 were shortlisted by employers, with 58 selected on the spot, the organisers said in a statement.

Data from Elders Helpline 1090, a joint project of the Bengaluru police and Nightingales Medical Trust, revealed a steep increase in complaints related to financial issues faced by senior citizens, from 10% in 2023-24 to over 22% in 2024-25.

Senior citizens at the job fair organised by Nightingales Medical Trust on Sunday.

Seniors looking for jobs may register on www.nightingalesjobs60plus. com. Employers may also get in touch with the trust to explore opportunities for senior citizens, the statement added.

Police crack down on foreigners in drug peddling ring

BENGALURU, DHNS

The police busted a drug peddling network involving foreign nationals in northern Bengaluru.

On July 10, the Yelahanka New Town police arrested two Ghanaian nationals with 700 grams of MDMA worth Rs 70 lakh.

The investigation led to raids on September 3 across Gunjur, Varthur, Begur Koppa Road, Gandhipur, Whitefield, KR Puram, Maragondanahalli, Ejipura, Sanjaynagar, and MS Palya.

Nine foreign nationals were detained, with seizures including 547 grams of cocaine, 43 grams of amphetamine, 40 grams of marijuana, and 201 grams of crystals (raw material). The police also seized Rs 87,100 in cash and arrested two suspects who were sent to judicial custody.

Seven more foreign nationals were found overstaying their visas and engaging in suspicious activities. They were handed over to the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) for further action.

Hotel busted for late-night party; one tests positive for drugs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) raided a star hotel on Vittal Mallya Road in the early hours of Sunday, detaining over 50 people for partying beyond the legal deadline.

Acting on a tip-off about drug use and intoxicants past 1 am, the police conducted a surprise raid at JW Mariott Hotel and found 55 people inside.

All were taken into custody for questioning and subjected to drug tests. The police said 54 tested negative, while one, identified as Rahul, tested positive for a psychotropic substance and was detained.

A case has been registered at the Cubbon Park police station against the hotel manager for allowing the gathering to continue at 2 am, in violation of rules. Investigation is underway, police said.

Traffic & parking restrictions for St Mary's feast today

BENGALURU, DHNS: In view of the annual feast and chariot procession of St Mary's Basilica on Monday, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) will impose restrictions from 1 pm to 10 pm in the Shivajinagar traffic police station limits.

Vehicular movement will be banned from Jyothi Café to Russell Market and from Broadway Road to Russell Market, and on Dharmaja Koil Street Junction towards Russell Market, Taj Circle.

From 2 pm onwards, vehicular movement from BRV Junction on Cubbon Road towards the Shivajinagar bus stand is prohibited, including BMTC buses. There will be no entry for vehicles from Balekundri Circle towards the Shivajinagar bus stand.

BMTC buses from Anil Kumble Junction will have to take a left turn at BRV Junction and proceed via CTO-Queen's Circle-MG Road.

Two-wheelers and light motor vehicles can proceed on BRV Central Street via Commercial Street to Kamaraj Road.

Two-wheelers and light motor vehicles can proceed on BRV Central Street via Ramada Hotel to reach VSN Road.

The surrounding areas of Russell Market, Broadway Road, Meenakshi Koil Street, Central Street, Shivaji Road, Cunningham Road (between Balekundri Circle and Chandrika Hotel Junction), Union Street, Infantry Road, Cubbon Road, Hospital Road, Lady Curzon Road, VSN Road, Plain Street, MG Road and Ramada Hotel rear side (old Congress office).

Devotees gather at St Mary's Basilica in Shivajinagar. DH FILE PHOTO

Alternative parking spaces have been arranged at the Kamaraj Road parking area opposite Army School, Main Guard Cross Road opposite Safina Plaza, and Jasma Bhavan Road.

Parking also has been arranged at RBANMS Ground (Gangadhar Chetty Road) and the orphanage on Dickenson Road (next to Hasanath College).

BMTC bus stops will be provided at Cubbon Road from CTO Junction to BRV Junction. BMTC buses will also make a stop at King's Road, Queen's Circle, Balekundri Circle, and Queen's Road.

Boy's head slams into height barrier as he stands out of car's sunroof

BENGALURU, DHNS: A boy's head slammed into a height barrier as he stood out of a car's sunroof.

A video of the incident captured on the rear camera of a passing car has been widely shared on social media.

The incident occurred on Vidyaranyapura Road towards the GKVK campus at 1.09 pm on Saturday.

According to the Yelahanka traffic police, the condition of the boy is stable.

Social media expressed anger at the boy's parents and debated the safety of sunroof usage by children, especially in the city limits.

One user posted that the incident was a wake-up call for parents to be aware of the consequences of letting a child use the sunroof.

"Letting kids lean out of windows or stand up through the sunroof feels like fun in the moment but it can turn into tragedy in seconds. Please keep children inside the car and buckle up. It's such a simple thing but it makes all the difference," the user wrote.

Previous incident

A similar incident happened a few months ago when a child standing out of the sunroof was filmed along the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

RELIGIOUS

Raghavendra Swamy Mutt: 'Garuda Purana' religious discourse by Chandrashekhar Acharya; Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura; 6.15 pm.

Vijaya Madhwa Sangha: 'Garuda Purana' religious discourse by Ghanikumar Acharya; Gangadhar Layout, Vijayanagar; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

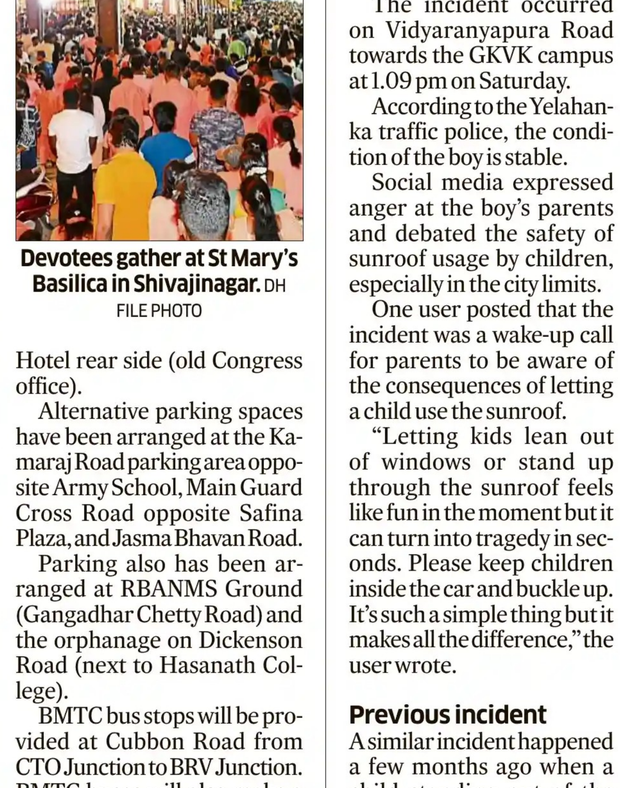
FORECAST

Rain or thundershowers would occur towards afternoon or evening

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.4°C
Minimum	19.5°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	95%
Sunset (Sept 8)	6:27 pm
Sunrise (Sept 9)	6:09 am
Moonrise	6:15 pm
Moonset	5:31 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD



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Caste survey: Mahasabha urges Lingayats to register as 'separate religion'

Asks them to mention 'Veerashaiva Lingayats' in others column

BENGALURU, DHNS

With a fortnight left for the social and educational survey (caste census), All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha general secretary Eshwar B Khandre urged fellow Lingayats on Sunday to enumerate their religion as 'Veerashaiva Lingayat' under the others column.

Addressing a press conference, Khandre, who is also the forest, ecology and environment minister, said: "Everyone has to participate in the survey. For the religion, they should mention as Veerashaiva Lingayat in the 'others' column. For the caste, mention as Veerashaiva or Lingayat or Veerashaiva Lingayat. For sub-castes, they should ascertain the serial numbers and then register."

The religion column includes 11 entries, including Hindu, Islam, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, Atheist, don't know and so on. The previous social and educational survey conducted in 2015 by the H Kantharaj-led backward classes commission was criticised by the dominant Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, who accused it of being "unscientific" and "undercounting" their numbers. According to the Jayaprakash Hegde Commission's report, based on the 2015 survey, the Lingayat population was estimated at 66.35 lakh. The report was set aside by the government in June.

Explaining that people should give their consent only after ascertaining that the enumerators had taken down the right information, Khandre added that official information would be provided after the backward classes commission releases its handbook on the survey. The minister clarified that the caste certificate given for reservation purposes wasn't related to the information provided during the survey. "The caste certificate is provided only after ascertaining the actual caste through school admission and other documents. Thus, everyone should register their actual caste and ensure that the actual numbers of the community emerge."

SHANKAR BIDARI
State unit president, All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha

"Our community has backward, more backward and most backward people. Thus the poor pursuing different occupations should be classified in appropriate categories through a transparent enumeration.

During the 2015 survey, there were some allegations that the overall number of Veerashaiva Lingayats had "decreased" due to some sub-community members, such as Ganiga, Sadar, registering alongside Hindu Ganiga or Hindu Sadar instead of mentioning that they were sub-castes of Veerashaiva Lingayats. Khandre urged everyone to participate in the survey actively.

'Separate religion status'

The Mahasabha's state unit president Shankar Bidari explained that there was a need to consider Veerashaiva Lingayats as a "separate religion." Bidari added: "Our community has backward, more backward and most backward people. Thus the poor pursuing different occupations should be classified in appropriate categories through a transparent enumeration."

DH CHANGEMAKERS TO WATCH IN 2026

Nominations Open

Each year, DH recognises extraordinary people who persevere and overcome difficult odds to usher in change.

Since the DH Changemaker awards were launched in 2019, we have identified 150-plus trailblazers from across Karnataka in areas such as community empowerment, health, conservation, entrepreneurship, and the arts.

This year, it is time to begin our search for 15 Changemakers -- we seek to highlight their efforts, celebrate their achievements, and share their stories. On New Year's Day in 2026, we will publish print, web and video stories about these achievers.

We invite nominations from readers starting today. Send in details of individuals (below 45) and teams that you think deserve the Changemakers title and honour.

The last date for submitting nominations is September 18, 2025. Scan the QR code to make a nomination.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pays floral tribute to portrait of Sri Narayana Guru to mark the 171st jayanti of the social reformer, in Bengaluru on Sunday. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, minister Madhu Bangarappa and others are also seen. DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH M S

Shivakumar recalls Bangarappa, calls him his guide

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday reminisced about former chief minister Sarekoppa Bangarappa as a mentor who "guided and corrected" him.

"When Bangarappa had to resign from the party (Congress), myself and Belliyappa went to him and asked, "what to do?" Even though he was contemplating building a new party, he was concerned about my growth and asked me to go with S M Krishna. If SM Krishna is my guru in a different way, Bangarappa is the one who guided me, gave me a foundation and corrected me."

Shivakumar said this while speaking at the birth anniversary celebrations of social reformer Narayana Guru. While Narayana Guru is the most well-known reformer from the Ediga/ Ezhava community, Bangarappa is the only person from that community to become the chief minister of Karnataka.

Stating that he was Bangarappa's "disciple," Shivakumar noted that Bangarappa made him a minister "at a young age."

"I have to remember former CM Bangarappa since 1979. I grew as his disciple in my political career. He saw leadership quality in me and wanted me to grow. Madhu Bangarappa had gone to a different party with his father. I brought him back. There were some alterations during the division of portfolios but both me and Siddaramaiah discussed with Surjewala and gave him the primary education portfolio."

D'sthala SIT denies discovery of more skeletal remains

Activists further questioned at Belthangady office

UDUPI, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Sunday strongly denied the speculations that more skeletal remains had been discovered at Banglegudde near the bathing ghats in Dharmasthala, and that they had been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory.

Information on more skeletal remains being discovered during the SIT's mahazhar with Soujanya's maternal uncle, Vittal Gowda, in Banglegudde near the Netravati River on Friday, which continued until midnight, is absolutely fake," added sources in SIT.

According to reports Vittal Gowda had allegedly handed over a skull to the complainant witness. But the sources in SIT told *DH* that these aspects under still under investigation.

An SIT official also declined to comment on whether Vittal Gowda will face arrest. "These are sensitive elements of the inquiry and we cannot reveal details outside the investigation team," SIT source maintained. On possible arrests of individuals from Kerala, SIT sources said no information could be disclosed at this stage. "Any bit of information related to arrests or other actions taken by SIT remains completely confidential," the official asserted, indicating that updates will only be provided once they had a conclusive report.

To a query on whether exhumation process would take place in the absence of the complainant witness, who is currently in judicial custody, SIT sources explained that a decision will be made based on the requirements of investigation.

Meanwhile activist Jayanth, Girish Mattanavar, Vittal Gowda and others were interrogated at SIT office in Beltangady on Sunday also.

Witness protection withdrawn

The protection given to witness complainant, under the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, was withdrawn after a report that he is being treated as an accused by Special Investigation Team (SIT) was submitted to the witness protection committee, Dakshina Kannada Superintendent of Police Dr Arun K said on Sunday. The said committee is headed by the principal district and sessions judge. "Once he is being treated as an accused, the Witness Protection scheme is no longer in force" SP Dr Arun informed DH when contacted. The 60-day witness protection period ends on September 8.

Complainant witness lodged in S'mogga jail

The complainant witness in alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case has been lodged in Shivamogga central jail in view of his safety. The Belthangady JMFC court has remanded him in judicial custody. He has been provided a separate cell in the jail.

Prajwal Revanna assigned clerk duties in prison library

BENGALURU, DHNS

Prajwal Revanna, the former JD(S) MP serving a life sentence for the rape of a housemaid, has been assigned a clerical job in the library in the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara in Bengaluru.

According to prison sources, Revanna (prisoner number 15528) has been given the task of issuing books to undertrial prisoners and other convicts. His duties also include maintaining a register to record which book is issued to which inmate.

The daily wage for this work has been fixed at Rs 524, which is the standard rate for unskilled labour within state prisons.

The sources clarified that wages will be paid only on the days he works and not on days he is required to appear in court.

Prajwal Revanna

Under the state's prison labour guidelines, an unskilled prisoner earns Rs 524 per day. After one year, they are considered skilled and their daily wage increases to Rs 548. With two years of experience, a prisoner can be promoted to the highly skilled category, with a daily salary of Rs 615. After three years, the wage rises to Rs 663 per day.

The new assignment follows the life sentence pronounced against Prajwal on August 2 by a Special Court of People's Representatives, in one of the 10 cases registered against him by the CID and the Holenarasipura Rural police station.

3 minors killed in bike crash at Chamarajanagar

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS:

Three minor boys were killed in a collision between a two-wheeler and a lorry, on the road connecting Karivaradarajana Betta, on the national highway, in Chamarajanagar, on Saturday.

The deceased are Mehran (13), Rayan (8) and Faizal (11). Another boy, Adan Pasha (9), is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Mysuru, and is said to be critical.

It is said that all the four were riding on a two wheeler, when they rammed into a lorry coming in the opposite direction.

The tragedy could have been averted if the parents had not allowed them to ride the two-wheeler, as they are all below 13 years, and it is an offence.

The parents should consider this seriously to avoid such tragedies, said Superintendent of Police B T Kavitha.

Cong nominates 4 MLCs, secures simple majority in Council

BENGALURU, DHNS: The four vacant posts in the Karnataka Legislative Council were officially filled on Sunday, giving the Congress simple majority in the Upper House.

A gazette notification announced that Aarathi Krishna, Ramesh Babu, F H Jakkappanavar and Shivakumar K were nominated by the Congress to the Legislative Council.

The four seats filled by the new members were previously held by C P Yogeshwar (who was a BJP member when he was nominated, but subsequently won the Channapatna Assembly seat on a Congress ticket), U B Venkatesh, Prakash Rathod and K A Thippeswamy.

The majority will be crucial for the ruling Congress to ensure the passage of bills. During the recently concluded monsoon session of the Legislature, the Congress faced a setback, when the opposition BJP and JD(S) voted against the Karnataka Souharda Sahakari (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and defeated the bill. Earlier, there had been speculations that Aarathi and Babu would be joined by senior journalist Dinesh Amin Mattu and Dalit leader D G Sagar. However, Mattu and Sagar were replaced with Jakkappanavar and Shivakumar.

15% NRI quota in med seats: AIDSO calls for statewide protest on Sept 10

BENGALURU, DHNS: The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) on Sunday called for a statewide protest against government's policy to introduce a 15% NRI quota in government medical colleges. The government claims this move will generate funds but this approach is nothing but auctioning government seats to the rich, pushing public institutions towards privatisation," a press release by AIDSO, said. It warned that the decision was a "dangerous" step towards converting government colleges into "profit-making centers."

Clouds dampen Bengalureans' date with Red Moon

SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengalureans waited anxiously for the "Red Moon" or the total lunar eclipse late Sunday night, but their hopes were dampened as the skies remained covered with clouds.

To mark the occasion, the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium hosted a public lunar eclipse viewing event and lecture on the lunar eclipse to share joy and knowledge.

"I expected it to be more dramatic because that's how it was shown in movies, but the experience was still surreal and the moon looked beautiful despite being covered by the clouds," Samuel, a student who attended the viewing, told *DH*.

The short lecture was fun and factual.

Planetarium Director Dr B R Guruprasad explained that the reason eclipses, either lunar or solar, are possible is because the moon is 400 times smaller than the sun and 400 times closer to the earth than the sun. This makes it the perfect size to either block the whole radius of the sun and cast a shadow onto the earth (solar clipse) or hide perfectly behind the shadow of the earth (lunar eclipse).

The Penumbral eclipse started at 8.58 pm on Sunday and continued till 9.57 pm, where the partial eclipse started, meaning the moon was partially moving into the Umbra. Total eclipse, i.e., the 'Red Moon', was visible from 11 pm to 12.22 am early Monday, and back to a partial eclipse at 1.26 am and ended at 2.25 am. The eclipse lasted a total of five hours and 27 minutes, with a one-hour 22-minute period where the moon remained red. "The colour or the rich redness on the moon is dependent on how thick, or polluted the atmosphere is" Guruprasad told *DH*. "Not every eclipse is the same as the next eclipse varies."

Dr B R Guruprasad, Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, explains a lunar eclipse, in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO

ED raids C'durga MLA's house for 3rd time, seizes valuables

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) conducted a third raid on the residence of Chitradurga MLA K C Veerendra Puppy, seizing two cloth bags containing valuables from a locker.

Sources indicated that the seized bags may contain gold, though the exact contents are yet to be officially confirmed.

The latest raid is part of an ongoing investigation into an alleged illegal online betting racket valued at over Rs 2,000 crore.

This follows a previous search on September 2, during which ED officials reportedly seized more than six luxury cars from the premises.

The MLA was picked up by the ED in Sikkim and interrogated for five days.

The agency has also been scrutinising his 17 bank accounts and has raided the banks in connection with the case.

The investigation aims to uncover the full extent of the financial transfers and illegal transactions involved.

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Coming soon, lemon tea ...

Lemon, from Page 1

The board has already identified new locations in Bengaluru and Vijayapura for expansion.

Local farmer Tammanna Pujari believes the initiative will be a game-changer. "Lemon tea is said to help improve health. A proper awareness campaign will definitely give a fillip to the growers," he said.

Pujari, who has cultivated lemons for over four decades, said his eight-acre farm yields 10 quintals every week. Farmers in his village supply around 100 tonnes of lemons daily to various parts of the country. "One batch of lemon growers has already received training from CFTRI in Mysuru. We have earmarked funds to train around 1,000 members of the farmer producer organisation engaged in lemon farming," said KSLDB's Patil. Indi MLA Yashvantrayagouda Patil said that the tea outlet at Indi Mini Vidhana Soudha will be expanded to other districts.

"We are constructing cold storages to facilitate lemon growers and are actively looking for marketplaces to start more tea points. The board has adequate funds to create awareness," he said.

Vijayapura district produces 80% of Karnataka's total lemon output but has seen a 30% decline in recent years due to water scarcity, prompting many farmers to switch to less water-intensive crops. Karnataka ranks fourth in lemon production after Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

NDA, Oppn on 'training' mode...

VP poll, from Page 1

If all 324 Opposition votes are cast and even if they lose, it would be the highest for a losing candidate, as the previous record was that of Sushil Kumar Shinde in 2002 when he bagged 305 against winner Bhairon Singh Shekhawat's 454, the tightest V-P polls so far. Incidentally, the NDA candidate is unlikely to cross 500 votes this time. In the 2022 elections when Trinamool Congress MPs did not cast their votes, Jagdeep Dhankhar had garnered 528 votes while his predecessor M Venkaiah Naidu got 516 votes.

While the BJP has already started the training of its MPs on how to cast their vote in the preferential system of polling, the Opposition is holding a "mock poll" on Monday at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan. A dinner hosted by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at Parliament Annexe was initially planned but later it was cancelled.

Holding two back-to-back meetings over the weekend, the Congress has appointed coordinators for every 15 party MPs. Separate Congress teams have also been appointed for coordinating with allies. One of the concerns for the election managers for both sides is invalid votes and they expect the mock drills and training sessions will help MPs understand the electoral proceedings well. In 2022, there were 15 invalid votes while it was 11 in 2017. The highest invalid votes was in 1997 when 46 MPs got their votes invalid.

State sanctions land for ...

Quantum City, from Page 1

"Together, these developments will strengthen Karnataka's standing as a hub for advanced science and innovation," the minister said.

He further noted that the Q-City would integrate academic institutions, innovation hubs, production clusters for quantum hardware, processors and accessories, and R&D clusters in collaboration with quantum HPC data centres.

A source in the minister's office said 6.17 acres were allocated from the government land available in Hesaraghatta and that additional land would be made available for development of industries under second and third phases.

"The project is still in its infancy. The modalities are still being worked out," the source said.

EC blocking proof of probe on fraud applications to delete votes: Kharge

'Poll panel has become BJP's back office for vote theft'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday has found fault with the Election Commission for allegedly not sharing "vital evidence" about those who fraudulently applied for deleting votes in a Karnataka Assembly seat, claiming the poll body had become the "BJP's back office for 'vote chori' (vote theft)".

His remarks came amid reports suggesting that the EC stonewalled repeated requests from the Karnataka CID seeking digital evidence in connection with its probe into a complaint that fraudsters submitted fake applications to remove names of electors in the Kalaburagi district's Aland constituency. The EC has not responded to the charges.

Kharge said the Congress had exposed an attempt at massive voter deletion in Aland ahead of the May 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections. He said a case was filed in February 2023, which revealed that 5,994 forged applications were filed, and that it was "clear evidence of a massive attempt at voter fraud".

Kharge said the Congress government then ordered a CID probe, but there was a "twist" as the EC had "now stonewalled the crucial information — effectively shielding those behind vote chori", despite the poll body earlier sharing some documents to trace the forgery.

"Why has the EC suddenly blocked vital evidence? Who is it protecting? The BJP's 'vote chori' department? Is the EC bending under the BJP's pressure to derail the CID probe? Individuals' right to vote needs to be protected. Indian democracy needs to be protected," he said.

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said the EC action "once again proves their culpability in hiding crucial evidence that proves mass-scale vote-rigging".

Emphasising that the Karnataka government had been conducting its investigation based on the EC's documents, he said the EC's withholding of evidence was against its Constitutional responsibility of ensuring free and fair elections.

It proved that the Opposition's "warnings are being proven right", that the EC and BJP were "hand in glove in orchestrating a daylight robbery of votes".

"The EC cannot evade accountability anymore. The EC must answer: Why is it silent despite multiple demands for transparency from the Opposition? What pressure from the BJP has forced it to take this confrontational stance? Since the Supreme Court has already castigated the EC for withholding information regarding SIR, why is it continuing to oppose calls for transparency?" he added.

The Congress has been on a warpath with the EC and the ruling BJP over the issue of "vote chori", with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi last month alleging that there were 1 lakh "fake voters" in Karnataka's Mahadevapura Assembly seat.

'Modi an enemy to India's interests'

In a no-holds barred attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, All India Congress Committee (AICC) president M Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday called the former 'an enemy to India's interests.'

Mallikarjun Kharge

Interacting with journalists at his house in Kalaburagi, Kharge said, "Modi and United States of America President Donald Trump may be friends, but as far as India's interests are concerned, Modi is the enemy. Modi's arrogance is such that he is convinced that anything and everything he does is acceptable. Modi even lobbied for Trump, but now India is reeling under the stress of the steep tariffs imposed by the US President."

The AICC chief opined that India would not have been tangled up in such a mess had Modi continued with the tried-and-tested foreign policy of Non-Alignment. "We would have remained insulated from the steep tariffs that the US has imposed," he added.

Wild jumbo chases safari vehicle at Bandipur; video goes viral

GUNDLUPET (CHAMARAJANAGAR DIST), DHNS:

An incident of a wild jumbo chasing a safari vehicle at Bandipur Tiger Reserve, in Gundlupet taluk, Chamarajanagar district, was reported on Saturday evening. The video clipping went viral on social media.

The wildlife enthusiasts on a safari at Bandipur had a shocking experience, when a wild jumbo suddenly resorted to attack the vehicle. However, the alert jeep driver started reversing the vehicle to escape from the attack. The irked jumbo chased the vehicle for a distance. Later, it slowed down for a few seconds and then started to chase again. A tragedy was averted due to the alert driver. Those in the vehicle were in panic and started screaming out of fear. Later, the jumbo moved into the forest.

If the drivers spot any tiger, leopards on the safari range, they inform the other vehicle drivers about the sightings and the place. Due to this, more vehicles reach the spot. At times, the wild elephants lose their patience and resort to attacking the vehicles, according to Forest department officials.

Wildlife enthusiast Bendaravadi Anand said that the vehicle drivers on the safari stop the vehicles for a long time if they see leopards, wild elephants and other animals, to facilitate them to take pictures and videos. Sometimes, they also scream out of excitement. This affects the normal life of the wild animals, which get irritated and suddenly resort to attacking the vehicles. The Forest department officials should guide the drivers in this regard, he opined.

B'luru firm hunts for gold...

Gold, from Page 1

"The movement of heavy machinery and drilling will definitely have an impact on the fauna. Hulitimmapura and other areas where the drilling is proposed are part of Lakkavalli elephant corridor while Tyagadabagi is part of Tanigebailu corridor. Any disturbance to wildlife should be avoided," he said.

People fought to stop iron ore mining in the nearby Hogarekangiri back in 2007-08, said Veeresh. "The Lingadahalli forest is part of a landscape that includes Bettadahalli and Navilugudda, both historic hills. It is also closely tied to people's culture due to two religious places: Biddakallappa temple and Siddeshwaraswamy Temple," he added. The Forest Department's list excludes leopards and four-horned antelope, but Veeresh says the animal has been documented by the department. The working plan, however, says elephants and Indian gaur frequently visit the area from Bhadra Tiger reserve and also raid the agricultural crops in the Lakkavalli and Tarikere ranges.

Sources in the department said prospecting licences are preliminary clearances. "The real scrutiny happens when an application for starting the full mining work is submitted. That will happen only if the company finds significant deposits," the source said.

Traffic signals rise as vehicles choke inner roads

Traffic signals, from Page 1

The traffic police attributed this to rising vehicular density, citing burgeoning apartment complexes and commercial structures in narrow lanes for the problem.

"Apartment complexes bring with them a large number of vehicles in just one building. As a result, the traffic in the lanes increases, especially during the peak hours when all residents leave or come back at the same time. This is one of the major reasons for traffic jams on inner roads," a traffic police officer from the north division said.

In many cases, apartment complexes have narrow approach roads, which adds to the problem. Commercial establishments such as malls have added to the problem.

A senior official who did not want to be named said that many of these malls are constructed without considering the public infrastructure available nearby and estimating the vehicle volume.

"We all know how traffic bottlenecks surged when the Mall of Asia opened," he said, noting that many inner roads around the mall also started experiencing traffic congestion soon after the mall opened.

Venkatesh A, a resident of Vidyaranyapura, recalled how traffic on Kodigehalli-Thindlu Main Road, Vidyaranyapura Main Road and Doddabommasandra Road, all located within a 2-km radius, has shot up multifold over the last 2-3 years.

"Even a trip to a neighbourhood shop during evening peak hours becomes an ordeal," he said.

"Recently, traffic police put up a traffic signal at the Vidyaranyapura 8th Main Junction, which is active only during evening peak hours. But it has provided some much-needed relief streamlining traffic. We need 2-3 more signals in just this area," he said.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at most places over Coastal, at a few places over South interior and at one or two places over North Interior Karnataka.
Forecast Sep 08: Generally cloudy sky. Light rain very likely.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28.1	19.2	0.3
Bidar	31.0	20.0	0.0
Vijayapura	31.4	20.0	0.0
Dharwad	29.0	19.2	0.0
Haveri	29.2	21.4	0.0
Kalaburagi	32.6	21.0	0.0
Raichur	32.4	20.4	0.0

COASTAL

Honnavar	29.7	23.9	14.2
Karwar	30.6	23.8	3.2
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	29.0	23.6	5.0

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	9.5
Bengaluru	27.7	19.5	18.4
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	31.2	22.4	0.0
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	28.2	20.7	0.1
Davangere	31.0	20.5	0.0
Hassan	27.4	19.9	0.0
Mysuru	29.8	20.0	11.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	30.9	20.3	0.0

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	32.0	27.0	NIL
Kolkata	32.0	27.0	NIL
Mumbai	28.0	26.0	NA
Chennai	33.0	28.0	NA
Pune	28.0	21.0	NA
Hyderabad	30.0	23.0	NA
Th'puram	32.0	25.0	NIL

Three Bengaluru students drown in Arabian Sea near Kundapur

One student rescued, rushed to Manipal hospital

UDUPI, DHNS

Three students from a Bengaluru college drowned while swimming in Arabian Sea at Charkikadu beach in Kundapura taluk on Sunday.

The deceased students had been identified as Gautham (19), Lokesh (19), and Ashish (18). Another student, Niroop, rescued by local resident Umesh Poojary, is in a critical condition, and is currently undergoing treatment at KMC Hospital, Manipal, police sources added.

A group of ten students from different colleges in Bengaluru arrived in Udupi district two days ago. After visiting popular tourist spots, including Sri Krishna Mutt and Malpe Beach, the group had rented rooms at a lodge in Kumbashi.

On Sunday morning, they walked towards Charkikadu beach using mobile navigation.

While nine students entered the sea, one of them, Anjan, chose to stay back onshore. Suddenly, the group were caught in strong currents.

Two students managed to swim to safety, while two others were rescued by their friends. Niroop was pulled out unconscious by Umesh Poojary and rushed to the hospital.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel, Coastal Security Police, and Kundapura Police, along with professional diver Ishwar Malpe and local residents, recovered the bodies and sent them to KMC Hospital, Manipal, for post-mortem.

The students had reportedly booked return train tickets to Bengaluru for Sunday evening after completing their coastal tour. A case was registered at the Kundapura police station.

Forestry college student goes missing in Benne Hole Falls

SIRSI, DHNS: A third-year BSc (Forestry) student of the College of Forestry here has gone missing after he fell into Benne Hole Waterfalls in the taluk on Sunday. Rahul, a native of Huvina Hadagali slipped into the falls while trying to save his friend Srinivas.

According to police, four students of the College of Forestry ventured near Benne Hole Falls. Srinivas, a native of Hosapete accidentally slipped while washing his feet but he clung to a tree branch. Rahul rushed to rescue his friend, but fell into the falls. Darshan and Bhimappa, who were part of the four-member group, informed the locals and the police about the incident. A team of divers led by Gopalagowda, spotted Srinivas through a drone camera and rescued him. The divers have continued the operation to search for Rahul.

IN REMEMBRANCE

JYOTI UDANI

Our dear Jyoti Udani passed away on Friday 5th September. Always smiling, gentle and loving, a wonderful friend, with a zest for life.

Bhakti meeting at the Shah Residence – 56, 8th Main Road, RMV Extension, Sadashivanagar, (Opposite Rashtrothana Yoga Centre) Bangalore 560080.

Monday | 8th September | Time: 5 to 6pm

Shah & Udani Family - 99772-99843

8 injured in stone pelting during Ganesha immersion procession in Maddur

MADDUR (MANDYA DISTRICT), DHNS

Eight persons were injured after stones were thrown on Ganesha idol immersion procession, at Maddur town in Mandya district, on Sunday night.

When the procession crossed a mosque near Ram Rahim Nagar at around 8 pm, a few miscreants threw stones. In retaliation, another group pelted stones on the mosque. There was a clash between two groups of Hindus and Muslims creating tension.

The leaders of both the faiths gathered on the spot, along with BJP, RSS and Bajrang Dal activists. Police had to struggle to disperse the crowd and bring the situation under control.

A few members of Ganesha Visarjana Samiti staged a protest in front of another mosque in the town, seeking justice. Police rushed to the spot and forced all the shops on the street down their shutters.

Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi visited the spot. Additional police security has been deployed in the town.

Police officers pacified the leaders of both the faiths and brought the situation under control.Police force is camping in the town as a precautionary measure.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Property Development Department
3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru-560 027. **Ph**: 080-22969274 **e-Mail**: pdadvt@bmrc.co.in
No.BMRCL/PD/ADVT/PIERS & PORTALS/2025-26/01 Date:07.09.2025

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: RFP Notification for outdoor advertisement on BMRCL Network for Purple, Yellow, Green, Pink and Blue Lines
Refer Notification released in Deccan Herald dated: 06.09.2025
The above tender Notification published in **Deccan Herald and Kannada Prabha on 7th September 2025,** has been withdrawn.

Sd/- Director, Finance

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, 'Vidyuth Bhavan', B.H. Road, M.R.S. Shimoga - 577 203
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: SEE/EE(O)/AEE(O)/SMG/25-26/3283-86 Date: 22.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

MESCOM invites tender for the following works under Total Turn-Key basis in Shivamogga Circle. The interested eligible bidders may log on to website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 09.09.2025 for more information.

Work Details
Reorientation of F3 Siddarudanagara feeder by replacing overhead rabbit to 11kV 240 sqmm UG cable to avoid the interruption from F2 Taluk office F4 Laxmipura F5 Baballi feeders at Seegebagi station in unit 2 CSD Bhadravathi.
Reorientation of 11kV SF4 Taluk Office Feeder By Providing 11kV 240Sqmm UG Cable at Seegebagi Muss To Aviod Other Feeder Interruption To Maintain Uninterrupted Power Supply At Unit 2 CSD Bhadravathi

DIPR/MNG/734/MPL/25-26

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)
O & M Circle, Shimoga

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/SEE(O)/AEE3/25-26/6349-51 & 6358-60
Date: 04.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka public procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against for the following works:

1) Bid enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TZ/SEE(O)/AEE3/2025-26/0009/CALL-2 Dt:03.09.2025 Tender for **procurement of 110KV class CT's (Ratios: 400-200/1-1-1A & 200-100/1-1-1A)-CALL2 without mounting structure, marshaling box and terminal connectors required for maintenance of Sub-stations in Transmission (Operations) Zone, Tumakuru.**

2) Bid enquiry No: KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/TR(O)/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2025-26/0023/CALL2 Dt: 03.09.2025 **Tender for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 11KV Class 484KVAR Capacitor Units with internal fuses, terminal connectors required to various substations coming under Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Tumakuru-CALL2.**

The bids will be received through KPPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the KPPP process can be obtained by logging on to KPPP website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** OR KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** on or after **Dtd: 08.09.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-, Chief Engineer Electy., Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "PARASARANA BAHAVANA" 1st Floor, Kothithopu Road, 66/11kV S/s Tumakuru Premises, Tumakuru-03.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Maratha quota deal hard to implement

Both the Maharashtra government and the Maratha reservation activist Jarange-Patil claimed victory as they reached an agreement last week. His protest fast had entered the fifth day and created turmoil in Mumbai. The government has bought peace but it is not certain whether it is permanent. The agreement does not cover all contentious matters and implementation may bring up problems. The government has accepted many of Patil's demands, including the one for implementing the Hyderabad Gazetteer, which would enable Marathas from the Marathwada region to establish their Kunbi credentials and claim reservation benefits. The government has not accepted the demand for recognition of all Marathas as Kunbis—it told the agitators that it was unlikely to stand scrutiny in the courts. Other demands, such as the withdrawal of police cases against Maratha activists, granting of compensation to family members of those killed in the protests, and forming committees to scrutinise applications for caste certificates, would not present any problems.

The Maratha reservation question, which has vexed governments and gained momentum in recent years, cannot be considered resolved with the formalisation of this agreement. The Devendra Fadnavis government has gone further than previous governments by accepting six of the eight demands made by the agitators. But implementation will not be easy and every step that the government takes will be challenged in the courts.

The govt buys peace but the road ahead is full of obstacles

The agitators are unlikely to take a negative judicial verdict for an answer. There will be a backlash from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) who would feel that the reservation for the Marathas is at their expense, because there is an overall cap of 50% on caste-based reservations. The OBC communities are powerful and the government would not want to lose their support. Cabinet minister and OBC leader Chhagan Bhujbal has already expressed his apprehensions about the impact of the agreement. He has said while a Kunbi can claim reservation on the basis of a certificate that he is a Kunbi, Marathas cannot claim to be Kunbis and claim reservation.

While Marathas are a politically dominant and economically powerful group in Maharashtra, agrarian distress, unemployment and the shrinking of the economic pie have hit many members of the group, especially in rural areas. They have thought of reservation as a solution to their problems. Previous attempts to grant reservations to them have failed and the Supreme Court struck down a 2018 state law granting it. There is no survey which proves the social and economic backwardness of the Maratha community. The implementation of the agreement will therefore run into political and legal obstacles. The agreement could also trigger demands for reservation from dominant communities in other states.

Survey a step towards inclusive governance

The Karnataka government's decision to conduct a comprehensive survey of Devadasis and transgender persons is a long-overdue but welcome step towards inclusive governance and social justice. Beginning September 15, this exercise aims to gather accurate data on their socio-economic conditions and ensure that they are not excluded from welfare schemes and benefits. For too long, both communities have languished on the margins of society, neglected by policymakers and exploited by social structures. A scientific survey can provide a strong foundation for their rehabilitation and empowerment.

The history of the Devadasi system highlights why this effort is critical and urgent. Once revered as custodians of classical music and dance, Devadasis gradually lost social respect as the practice degenerated into exploitation, abuse, and human rights violations. Though outlawed under the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982, the practice survives in the northern and central districts of Karnataka. Many women, abandoned by families and shunned by society, continue to live in poverty, stigma, and social isolation. The survey across 15 districts can help identify those who remain trapped in this legacy and offer them a dignified path forward by integrating them into the mainstream. The challenges faced by transgender persons are equally daunting. Social exclusion, economic discrimination, and systemic barriers in education and healthcare have left the community vulnerable to homelessness, unemployment, and violence. While the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, exists on paper, its impact has been diluted by weak implementation and inadequate resources.

Karnataka is moving in the right direction by enumerating Devadasis and sexual minorities

Absence of reliable data has only compounded the problem, making targeted interventions nearly impossible. This survey marks the first baseline enumeration of sexual minorities in Karnataka, a milestone in itself. A door-to-door survey supported by mobile applications will not only correct undercounting but also ensure that dependents, such as the children of Devadasis, are not overlooked. More importantly, it will allow the government to bridge gaps in welfare delivery, whether caused by bureaucratic hurdles, lack of awareness, or rigid eligibility criteria that prevent them from receiving benefits. Surveys, however, are only the beginning. Data must translate into meaningful action, be it pensions that reach every beneficiary, scholarships that keep children in school, or skill development programmes that create genuine livelihood opportunities. The government must also engage with civil society and community leaders to ensure sensitivity and participation in the survey process. By shining a light on communities long consigned to the shadows, Karnataka has taken a progressive step.

BEYOND THE SHAKHA

RSS at 100: The messaging in Bhagwat's address

Its recent lecture series reiterates its strategy: ideological alignment with BJP on ends, and organisational distance on means

NEIL TANNEN

At the lecture series titled '100 Years of Sangh Yatra – New Horizons', held from August 26 to August 28 in New Delhi to mark the centenary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat described the organisation's place vis-à-vis the government with unusual clarity.

Bhagwat's remarks restated a long-running design for India's most consequential movement-party dyad: ideological alignment with the BJP on ends, organisational distance on means.

He stated that "the RSS can only give suggestions"; governance, he said, rests with the party. He denied having direct authority over the BJP leadership, saying, "If we elected the BJP president, would it have taken so long?"

This tone was evident in his other remarks—calling for "three children" as a minimum ideal, endorsing trade policy as "voluntary, not under pressure", allowing reservations to continue "till required" and assuring "no quarrel" with the party.

These assertions warrant reflection.

The RSS, founded in 1925 by K B Hedgewar in Nagpur, aimed for discipline and social unity. It evolved into a federated network of students, labour groups, and religious organisations, culminating in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951.

Following a brief interlude, the Bharatiya Janata Party took its place in 1980. The organisation faced two national bans—first from 1948 to 1949 after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination and again during the Emergency, from 1975 to 1977—and highlighted its focus on being 'cultural' while pursuing political goals.

In the late 20th and early 21st century, the RSS grew its shakhas and service initiatives, solidifying its influence. Thus, the centenary marks not just achievement but a formalisation of methodology.

Practice of modularity: "We can only give suggestions" is not a throwaway line; it crisped up what this article calls movement–party modularity—a deliberate coupling of a social movement (RSS) and a party (BJP) through shared cadre, narratives and goals without a formal command chain. The advantages are straightforward. The movement can define horizons; the party can negotiate trade-offs inside parliamentary arithmetic and international constraints. The risks are equally clear: accountability blurs when rhetoric and policy travel together but responsibility is split.

Looking at it in this way, all major themes of the centennial address constitute expressions of concord between intentions and the allotment of means.

Reservations: Pledging to stand for quotas "till the time it is required", RSS rationalises legitimacy of the instrument but would not dialogue about the sunset test. The government owes parameters and timing; the movement offers normative cover for prolongation of the order of the moment that dominates. And that is modularity in its operation—convergence on the end of uplift, divergence on implementation.

Demography: The "three-children policy" fosters a natalist spirit without legal mandate, aiming for a larger majority in civic discourse, allowing political leaders to impose incentives or protections. It addresses "demographic imbalance" from illegal conversions and immigration while promoting community confidence.

This dual approach sets the discourse limits that could enhance civil society networks, like discouraging undocumented worker employment, as the state considers enforceable actions aligned with legal norms.

Commerce and self-sufficiency: Bhagwat's elucidation that swadeshi can go with foreign commerce—"voluntary, not under duress"—is a sovereignty-first openness. It allows room for rhetorical spin to negotiate tariffs, standards, screening inward investment, and supply-chain hedging to go to the government, while abandoning autarky. The movement provides room for principle again, Cabinet oversees policy mix.

Organisation and the BJP: The quip, "If we chose the BJP president, would it have taken so long?" is a public statement of design. Influence is channelled through culture, networks and long-horizon messaging, not formal appointment powers. In practice, it means that you should expect cadre circulation (shared training, shared idioms) rather than a visible instruction pipeline. It also means the movement can keep maximal goals in view even when the party trims sails.

Significance now

The 2024 verdict produced an NDA government in which the BJP governs without a solo majority. In a coalition moment, modularity functions as a shock absorber. The party must bargain with partners on legislation and appointments; the movement keeps the ideological horizon vivid and cadre morale high, without owning day-to-day compromises.

It has two immediate implications: one, policy echo without edict becomes key. If "voluntary, not under pressure" appears in trade statements or "till it is required" influences government briefs, it shows diffusion through shared frames, not directives. Likewise, if ministries take measured approaches to migration enforcement, reflecting security and trust, modularity not command is likely at play.

Second, socialisation appointments need to be preserved. Administrators and advisers with coverage for movement can emerge in roles that are of importance to curriculum, skilling, welfare targeting, standards policy, or technology ethics. That does not establish a chain of command; it reveals how collective education and ritual produce policy gravity.

A normative tension exists in the centenary lines. Appeals for trust, a "no-quarrel" policy embracing "Hindu" as a civilisational identity clash with concerns over conversion and migration. One alleviates societal tensions; the other fosters vigilantism.

The next two years will reveal if the approach will be inclusive, marked by devotion to constitutional reservations, equitable policing of migration, and outreach to minorities, or if it will lead to polarisation that determines the dominant dimension of the tension.

In short, the centenary did not proclaim a structural break. It reaffirmed a methodology: keep movement close to power but not the same; let the party bear governing responsibility; let frames move ahead of policy; and keep the system crowded enough that ideas endure electoral climate.

Quoted phrases—"can only give suggestions," "three children", "voluntary, not under pressure," "till the time it is required," "no quarrel", and "if we elected the BJP president, would it have taken so long?"—are signposts of that operating system.

The analytic challenge for the media and scholars is not to seek edicts, but to detect echoes: where Cabinet-speak, bargains of coalitional accommodation and bureaucratic routine start to reflect those lines without ever asserting they were instructed to do it that way.

(The writer is Head, Department of Political Science, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Come September, the courts come alive

Planning for US Open is an annual ritual for me

N RAGHUPATHY

If it is September, it must be US Open time, the tennis fan in me cries out. In fact, this annual ritual to visit New York starts several months earlier with the pre-sale of select tickets to Amex cardholders. After careful analysis and speculation, I secure coveted tickets for a few prime sessions. My wife, and sometimes other members of my family, become collateral damage as they get selected, on a random basis, to accompany me.

I usually attend matches that are at the quarterfinals stage or later, hoping to see star players in action. Each day, players and matches for the following day are assigned to different courts/stadiums in an unpredictable manner. So, from the start of the tournament, I keep peering at the schedules, like an astrologer checking the alignment of stars, predicting which players will be playing on the days of my visit.

Preparation for the visit involves a variety of activities – loading the digital tickets on my smart phone, planning the subway route and determining the right size and contents for the backpack, including but not limited to sunscreen, hat and water bottle.

Fully armed with the essentials, I and my partner enter the venue, officially called the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre, wading through a sea of humanity that is in attendance. It feels like I am at an international conference with hundreds of delegates from different countries, a true melting pot of global cultures. Trying and failing to get our bearings amidst the bewildering array of eateries, souvenir shops, gigantic display screens and crisscross paths, we seek guidance from the staff and volunteers strategically positioned to keep the crowd moving, and finally make it to the correct seats in the correct stadium.

The match, or 'game' if you prefer the prevalent sports lingo, begins with a thundering introduction of the players, accompanied by psychedelic lights and video displays of their respective careers. After the customary warm up time, the actual play commences. It is mesmerising to see the bullet like serves and incredibly angled shots as my favourite players float across the court like butterflies. It is an entirely different experience from watching the curated, live transmission on television.

As the match goes on, sometimes for as long as four hours when the players are well matched, people keep moving across in all directions, taking restroom breaks or bringing in food and drinks on delicately balanced trays. During the mandatory one-minute break after every two games in a set, camera shots of sections of the audience are displayed on the big screen, making people ecstatic at becoming instant celebrities. Many times, even a dull game becomes tolerable due to these added attractions, or distractions, depending on your outlook.

As a die-hard fan, I hop from court to court savouring the skills of different players, maximising the value of my annual pilgrimage to the temple of tennis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India must explore global markets for its farm produce

Apropos 'Balancing the basket' (Sep 7), the farming sector in India is under severe stress, and its health is crucial to the nation's economic and social stability. With nearly 50% of India's population dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, any faltering in this sector has far-reaching consequences. Yet, farm incomes remain stagnant, productivity growth is uneven, and climate change is exacerbating distress. In this context, agriculture needs utmost priority in policy formulation. Expanding irrigation, investing in technology, and providing stable procurement prices are immediate needs. Equally important is diversifying markets. India must aggressively explore international avenues for farm output.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Not private spaces

This is with reference to 'Vendors gobble up city footpaths as pedestrians get pushed onto the road' (Sept 6). It is a true reflection of the current state of footpaths in Bengaluru, not just in the areas highlighted. The situation is even worse in smaller areas where pedestrians struggle to navigate through streets with footpaths encroached upon by vendors, parking, debris, private gardens, and fast food joints, among others. There is a lack of civic sense and unless this mindset changes, things will only worsen.

Chella Kumar, Bengaluru

Don't rank them

The Government of India's introduction of university rankings through NIRF is a misguided policy. It appears that the government itself will degrade its own universities by pitting one against the other. Such ranking gives rise to socio-economic, linguistic, regional, and employment problems.

Sunil Pedgaonkar, Solapur (Maharashtra)

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

...The leaders and officers in Bihar have engaged in corruption. When the Jan Suraaj system is established in Bihar in November, action will be taken against the corrupt. The money looted from Bihar will be recovered from them...

Prashant Kishor, Jan Suraaj Party founder

A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen.

Winston Churchill

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Philosophy in the age of AI

In an era flooded with machine-made answers, human beings must learn to ask better questions

V KRISHNAPPA

For most of its history, philosophy has been less about answers than about asking questions. That is what made Socrates both dangerous and memorable to Athenians. He did not write theories; he challenged certainties. He walked through the agora asking: What is truth? What is justice? How should one live? His legacy was not a body of knowledge but a way of thinking — a refusal to accept the convenient or the conventional without scrutiny. This spirit of questioning lay at the heart of education for much of history.

In independent India, philosophy remained marginal. It is absent from schools, mostly confined to a handful of electives in universities, and widely dismissed as an indulgence of the rich. Parents feared it would lead to unemployment; employers presumed it bred dreamers. Students themselves often asked, "What will I do with this degree?"

Yet the ground beneath education is shifting. Artificial intelligence now performs many of the tasks once entrusted to human learners. Machines draft essays, summarise reports, design solutions, and even simulate reasoning. If education was once about acquiring information or mastering procedures, that work is now outsourced to the thinking machines. The unsettling question is: what remains distinctively human?

The answer lies in the very thing philosophy has always cultivated — the art of questioning. AI is astonishingly good at delivering answers. But an answer without a good question is empty. Machines can be trained to generate queries, but they cannot feel the urgency of asking why. They cannot experience doubt, hesitation, or moral unease — the very conditions that make questioning an ethical human act. Philosophy trains us in precisely this: the discipline of asking questions.

This is why philosophical education must return to the centre of university life — not as the luxury of the privileged, but as a civic and professional necessity. In an era flooded with machine-made answers, human beings must learn to ask better questions: about meaning, justice, responsibility, possibility.

Parents anxious to see their children find jobs would do well to remember: the jobs of the future will be unstable, stable industries will collapse, new ones will emerge, and skills will age rapidly. In this world, a narrow technical training may secure a first job but rarely sustains a career. What lasts are habits of mind: the ability to analyse a problem from multiple angles, to see what is missing in a dataset, to challenge assumptions, to spot ethical blind spots. These are survival skills — and they are what philosophy, when taught well, provides.

Employers are beginning to recognise this. In technology firms, in finance, in healthcare and governance, the hardest problems are not about information but judgment. Should we automate this process? Should we trust this data? What risks are we ignoring? What values are we privileging? No algorithm can decide these for us. Leaders who can pose such questions, frame dilemmas clearly, and hold ethical lines are indispensable. Far from being a liability, philosophy graduates bring the intellectual flexibility and moral seriousness that organisations now need.

For students, the rewards are even deeper. Studying philosophy is the practice of freedom. It is to meet thinkers who refuse to let us be lazy: Plato demanding we define justice, Nietzsche unmasking truths as disguised desires, Simone Weil calling us to attend to suffering, and Wittgenstein exposing the limits of our own language. Philosophy does not hand us set answers; it teaches us to endure the difficulty of asking questions that matter.

There is also the question of our democratic future. A society that forgets how to ask questions is a society that forgets how to govern itself. Already, we see fake news spreading with velocity, conspiracy theories gaining ground, and slogans replacing arguments. Citizens trained to ask questions — seriously, responsibly — are the only real resistance.

The scepticism remains. Isn't philosophy too abstract, too slow, too impractical for a world of rapid change? The reply is simple: the faster the change, the more we need disciplines that teach us to pause. The more information overwhelms us, the more we need training in sorting, judging, and resisting manipulation. The work of philosophy is never solitary. The Socratic method was never about humiliating opponents but about thinking together — refining ideas through challenge and response. In a time of polarisation, when public debate often descends into shouting, philosophy offers another model: disagreement without contempt, questioning without alienation.

However dazzling the work of thinking machines may be, philosophy must remain the guardian of the questions. Machines will not live with doubt. They will not wrestle with the unease of should we. That responsibility remains with human agents. Philosophy is not a relic of the past — it is a wager on the future of democratic societies in the age of thinking machines.

(The writer is a professor at the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, RV University, Bengaluru)

A city rising, a city buried: Bengaluru's rubble crisis

TALAT NAAZ AND ROSEWINE JOY

Behind the steel and glass of India's "Silicon Valley" lies an uncomfortable truth few see but all experience: mountains of rubble, dumped and forgotten. The city is drowning in its own construction, burying lakes and green spaces. Under the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Management Rules, 2016, the responsibility for proper disposal of construction debris rests with the waste generators themselves, whether individuals or entities. In Bengaluru, the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (now replaced by the Greater Bengaluru Authority, GBA) was tasked with enforcing and overseeing the implementation of these regulations.

Bengaluru's building boom is burying the city under a growing mountain of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. From 850 tonnes per day in 2015, it is expected to touch 4,500–5,000 tonnes daily by 2025. Until 2017, the city had no formal processing facility; today, it manages just 1,750 tonnes per day. Even with the civic authority's plans to raise capacity to 3,000 tonnes per day, a vast share of debris will remain unmanaged. With limited capacity, much of this waste is illegally dumped into drains, vacant plots, wetlands and lakebeds, worsening flooding risks and accelerating the erosion of Bengaluru's "green and blue" ecological identity. Piles of rubble in neighbourhoods from Sarjapur to Whitefield illustrate a city struggling to reconcile its infrastructure growth with sustainable planning.

Despite the scale of the problem, Bengaluru relies largely on a single recycler, Rock Crystal Pvt Ltd, which processes only 100–150 tonnes a day against a 1,000-tonne capacity. A second plant at Kannur, announced years ago, remains stuck in limbo. Of the eight official dump sites identified by the authorities, only three -- at Srinivasapura, Anjanapura, and Mallasandra -- are operational, all far from construction hotspots. High transport costs and lax enforcement make illegal dumping cheaper and easier, further undermining recycling efforts.

The gap between C&D waste generation and recycling in Bengaluru is both systemic and infrastructural. Though recycled aggregates are 15–20% cheaper, they have yet to gain acceptance due to poor awareness, outdated perceptions, and the absence of incentives. Even government projects remain exempt from any mandate to incorporate recycled products in civil construction.

The city recycles less than 5% of its C&D waste, far behind global leaders such as Tokyo and Singapore, where recycling rates hover between 80% and 100%. While concrete, steel, and bricks are partially salvaged, wood, gypsum, glass, and plastics are rarely recycled due to infrastructure gaps.

The 2022 floods in Bengaluru's tech corridor highlighted the consequences of inaction, with rubble-choked drains intensifying waterlogging and causing losses of hundreds of crores. Informal waste workers, the backbone of debris management, remain unprotected and unrecognised, facing respiratory hazards and unstable incomes. What could be a pathway to green employment is instead a public health risk.

The C&D Waste Management Rule (2016) mandates source segregation, safe transportation, and reuse of recycled debris in public projects. A fine of Rs 10,000 per tonne is also imposed for illegal dumping and a tipping fee of Rs 134 per tonne for authorised disposal. Yet, enforcement is inconsistent, monitoring is weak, and incentives are absent.

Urban planning experts argue for aggregation hubs every three to four wards to streamline logistics and improve recycler access. Without such infrastructure and stronger enforcement, Bengaluru risks turning its C&D waste challenge into a long-term environmental liability.

Blueprint for a Circular City

Bengaluru's mounting construction waste crisis is far from inevitable. A bold shift towards decentralised recycling plants through public-private partnerships, a steady feedstock supply for recyclers, and civic body-led logistics could dramatically boost capacity. Mandating recycled content in construction, paired with tax breaks and fast-track approvals, would generate steady demand. Lessons from Delhi's recycled material mandates, Pune's geotagging system, and Indore's community-driven PPPs would create a robust domestic recycling market. Global leaders like Tokyo, Amsterdam and Singapore prove near-zero C&D waste is possible by transforming debris into roads, paver blocks and eco-friendly building materials. Bengaluru can emulate these successes through initiatives like the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Circular Cities framework.

Similarly, technology could be a game changer. AI-based tracking, GIS mapping of dumping hotspots, and digital platforms connecting waste generators to recyclers would bring transparency and efficiency, supported by innovations from start-ups like TrashCon and Recity. GPS-enabled trucks, QR-coded consignments, and a public Urban Mining Platform for scheduling pickups and selling recycled products could make compliance easier.

Moreover, embedding "design for disassembly" for easier dismantling, training informal workers in safe handling, and integrating them into formal operations would create safer livelihoods. Public campaigns to shift builder attitudes are equally critical to breaking the culture of illegal dumping. With decisive action, Bengaluru could transform 60–80% of its debris into a resource stream, turning today's waste burden into a model of urban circularity.

Now, the question is no longer whether Bengaluru can solve its rubble crisis – it is "whether it chooses to?"

(Talat is a PhD scholar, and Rosewine is an associate professor at Christ Deemed to be University)

Israel's war in Gaza has displaced most of the 2.2 million Palestinian residents from their homes. Many of them fear it will be permanent, a reprise of the *Nakba*

Palestinians fear a repeat of 1948 history

RAJA ABDULRAHIM

People like Abdallah Abu Samra say they have always lived in the shadow of the 'Nakba' -- the catastrophe. NYT

The night was warm and lovely as the Abu Samra family gathered outside their home in the northern Gaza Strip in September 2023, the smell of mint from the garden filling the air. As always, the family patriarch recounted how, as a 10-year-old in 1948, he was forced from his village in what is now Israel, one of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced in what they call the *Nakba* — "the catastrophe." The patriarch, Abdallah Abu Samra, had told the story often, each time focusing on different details to ensure his family would remember them. One day, he hoped, they would all return. Within weeks, that prospect seemed more distant than ever.

Hamas waged its surprise attack on Israel, storming across the border on Oct 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people and seizing about 250 others as hostages. Israel then launched its war in Gaza, killing tens of thousands and leaving generations of Palestinians to experience displacement and hunger, and the fear that they would never see their homes again.

The Abu Samra family and many other Palestinians say they have always lived in the shadow of the *Nakba*. And from the first moments of the war, as Israeli warplanes started dropping bombs and flyers ordering mass evacuations, their worries of another *Nakba* rose. Since then, nearly two million people — about 90% of the population — have been driven from their homes and displaced within Gaza, many of them repeatedly, according to the UN.

In recent weeks, Israel's Defence Ministry has promoted a plan to force much of Gaza's population into an area near the Gaza-Egypt border, which legal experts warn would violate international law by displacing hundreds of thousands of people indefinitely. Palestinians in northern Gaza now face that prospect again as the Israeli military plans a full assault on Gaza City. "We are in a bigger *Nakba* now," said Abu Samra, a retired teacher.

Israelis have long objected to the characterisation of the 1948 conflict as a catastrophe. For them, it was a war of survival. A little more than two years ago, when the UN held a commemoration for the mass displacement of Palestinians during Israel's formation, Israel's UN ambassador denounced the event as "shameful" for "adopting the Palestinian narrative calling the establishment of the state of Israel a disaster."

The mass displacement nearly 80 years ago — and the rival narratives about it — are among the most intractable issues in the long conflict between the two sides, with Palestinians and their descendants demanding, and Israel rejecting, the right to return to the land they fled in 1948.

In the current war in Gaza, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government says that because Hamas has burrowed deep into — and under — Gaza's neighbourhoods and infrastructure, residents must leave civilian areas. It has said that its displacement orders are temporary, to get civilians out of harm's way and mitigate casualties.

The Palestinians haven't been driven out of Gaza itself. But Israel's displacement of civilians and destruction of neighbourhoods "appears to be a push for a permanent demographic shift in Gaza that is in defiance of international law and is tantamount to ethnic cleansing," said the UN's human rights chief, Volker Türk.

Israel is also encouraging what it calls "voluntary" emigration for people to leave Gaza entirely but has not found countries willing to take them in large numbers. Human rights experts say that any mass, so-called voluntary emigration would also constitute a kind of ethnic cleansing because conditions in Gaza have become so unlivable that many Palestinians will have no real choice but to leave.

The language used by some members of Netanyahu's government has added to Palestinians' fears. Bezalel Smotrich, the finance minister, said that Israeli forces were "destroying everything that's left of the Gaza Strip" and were "conquering, cleansing, and remaining in Gaza until Hamas is destroyed."

The Abu Samra family, about 20 in all, said they began fleeing on the first day of the war, when Israeli bombs struck so close to their home that the walls shook. It was the start of a cycle of displacements, until they eventually split up to find shelter. Some relatives died in Israeli strikes, the family said. Others fled to neighbouring Egypt and now wonder if they will ever return home, or if there will be anything left to return to.

Abu Samra, now 87 and frail, has been stuck in southern Gaza, in a tent of tarps, a curtain and blankets. Once again, he is scared, hungry and separated from most of his family, just as he was as a boy.

For a brief window this year, a ceasefire allowed some Palestinians to go back to their neighbourhoods. Many found only rubble. Nearly 80% of buildings have been damaged or destroyed, with more being cleared as Israel now expands its military campaign. The World Bank estimated that it could take 80 years to rebuild the homes that have been destroyed.

"With the news and what is happening, we are losing hope that we'll ever be able to return," said Ghada Abu Samra, 25, Abdallah Abu Samra's granddaughter, who managed to flee to Egypt.

For many Palestinians, the *Nakba* is not only a traumatic memory but also a matter of identity. About 1.7 million of the 2.2 million people in Gaza are either refugees from the war surrounding the establishment of Israel in 1948 or their descendants, according to the UN. And while most have never lived outside Gaza, many consider themselves refugees from the lands their families fled — including villages nearly wiped off the map.

Survivors of the 1948 war say that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were told at the time that they would be allowed to return to their villages in what is now Israel after a few days or weeks. Many just took a few belongings and the keys to their front doors. They were not allowed back.

The key to a house, often called the key of return, is such a powerful symbol for Palestinians that many families hold onto theirs, even for homes inside Israel that no longer exist.

In the current war in Gaza, incendiary comments by Israeli leaders raised Palestinians' fears that history was about to repeat itself. "We are now rolling out the Gaza *Nakba*," the Israeli agriculture minister, Avi Dichter, said a few weeks into the war. "Gaza *Nakba* 2023." Israel says it opened humanitarian corridors to allow people to find safety, and that it communicated its evacuation orders in flyers, text messages and phone calls.

Human rights groups counter that the war has rendered so much of Gaza uninhabitable that it is leading to permanent displacement, a potential war crime.

Some, like Human Rights Watch, call the displacement an intentional part of Israeli policy that amounts to a crime against humanity. Two prominent Israeli groups have joined some other international organisations in accusing the government of committing genocide for killing tens of thousands of Palestinians, razing huge areas, displacing nearly all of Gaza's population and restricting food.

Israel has rejected the accusations as deliberate misrepresentations.

In January, when Israel and Hamas struck a brief ceasefire deal, members of the Abu Samra family cried tears of joy, thinking it might offer a chance to go back home. They had grown up on Abdallah Abu Samra's stories of displacement in 1948, and before the current war, some had even felt a twinge of resentment at the older generation for leaving what is now Israel and winding up in Gaza.

Abu Samra had spent his early childhood living off about 100 acres his father owned in the farming village of Iraq Suwaydan — about 15 miles north of the present-day Gaza border — harvesting grains and picking figs. His daughter, Abeer Abu Samra, said she never fully understood the stories until Israeli bombs began falling near the family home in Gaza after the attack Oct 7, 2023, shaking the walls, followed by the Israeli orders to leave. **NYT**

Borrowing for today, burdening tomorrow

K V CHANDRAMOULI

The finance audit report for Karnataka, prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and presented in the Karnataka Assembly, indicates that to address the shortfall, the state government has increased its borrowings. As a result, Karnataka's net market loans have reached Rs 63,000 crore in 2023-24, a rise of Rs 37,000 crore from the previous year, with around 15% earmarked for guarantees. The CAG's findings regarding this additional borrowing show that routine spending and welfare schemes are increasingly being funded through debt. The state is therefore relying on loans to meet regular expenses rather than to promote future growth.

While welfare programmes are essential in tackling inequality and poverty, sound financial management is equally critical. If Karnataka fails to strike a balance between welfare and growth, its debt burden will continue to rise. The state must make prudent decisions: welfare is important, but it should not come at the expense of long-term development.

When expenditure consistently exceeds revenue, governments risk entering a cycle of borrowing that creates heavy repayment obligations in the future. If a government borrows excessively for non-developmental purposes for short-term political gain over long-term needs, its successor inherits the burden. This reduces fiscal space for developmental initiatives, forcing a significant portion of the budget towards servicing debt and interest. As a result, essential sectors such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure are left unfunded. Moreover, with fewer resources available, the new government's capacity to launch new developmental projects or create jobs is severely constrained. In effect, the legacy of debt not only restricts economic growth but also limits improvements in living standards for citizens.

India's Constitution, under Article 293, vests the Union government with legislative authority over state borrowing. Where states already carry outstanding central loans, they must obtain the Centre's consent to raise further loans. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBMA), 2003, sets legally binding targets for fiscal deficit (the gap between government revenue and expenditure) and debt levels, aiming to ensure fiscal sustainability over the medium term. The current legal framework --including India's Constitution Article 293 and the FRBMA – has drawn criticism for failing to define "public debt" clearly, for not specifying borrowing objectives, and for not mandating comprehensive debt management strategies, especially at the state level. Neither provision addresses the question of borrowing for "freebies" or other non-developmental activities.

The Centre's ability to regulate state borrowing is, therefore, a crucial mechanism. By placing limits or conditions on loans, it can direct state finances towards developmental projects and discourage excessive borrowing for non-development activities. Kerala has challenged the Centre's borrowing restrictions in the Supreme Court, arguing that they violate the principle of fiscal federalism. The case has been referred to a Constitution Bench for a definitive interpretation of Article 293.

There is no distinct law against borrowing for "freebies"; the legal debate has centred on whether such schemes serve a "public purpose". The Supreme Court has raised concerns over "irrational freebies" promised during elections, warning that they risk distorting the economy, draining public funds, and undermining fair electoral competition. A significant issue is the absence of a legal distinction between "freebies" and genuine welfare programmes. The Court has suggested that it is up to the legislature to tackle this issue.

Without specific laws governing state borrowing for non-development purposes, there is a risk of fiscal imbalance, reduced transparency, mounting debt, and potential economic instability -- burdens that could hinder development and get passed on to future generations. A balanced approach is therefore vital to sustain both social welfare and financial stability.

What is needed is specific legislation regulating state borrowing, particularly for non-development purposes. Such a framework should clearly distinguish between productive, growth-supporting borrowing and non-productive borrowing, while requiring transparent reporting to the legislature. This would enhance fiscal responsibility and accountability, ensure efficient use of public funds, boost investor confidence, and prevent states from using debt to fund consumption or revenue-neutral activities that do not generate long-term economic growth.

(The writer is a retired deputy director of boilers)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

1,500 perish in quake in Turkey

Lice (Turkey), September 7
Lice, the eastern Turkish town, epicenter of a killer earthquake that took at least 1,500 lives yesterday, dug its dead and injured out of its devastation today. Turkey's semi-official Anatolia News Agency quoted officials in the provincial capital of Diyarbakir as saying more than 500 persons had lost their lives in Lice, a town of only 8,000. It said more than 1,000 others were believed dead in surrounding villages. Initial reports put the total number of dead at 1,000.

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

CBI questions Kapil Dev

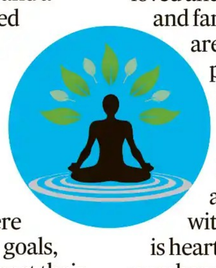
New Delhi, Sept 7
Completing the last leg of their questioning in the match-fixing case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today confronted the ace bowler and current coach of Indian cricket team, Kapil Dev, with the allegation levelled by former cricket all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar. Kapil Dev reached the CBI head- quarters here at 11:30 am and left at 1:30 pm after the agency queried him on the charges that Prabhakar offered him a bribe of Rs 25 lakh to play below his potential in a one- dayer against Pakistan in 1994.

OASIS | SUDHA DEVI NAYAK

Honouring our elders: A moral imperative

A large number of elders today experience a physical and emotional disconnect with their families. Challenged by ailments in a world ruled by transience, unable to cope, they are received with impatience and contempt as a hindrance. The final years are a private apocalypse known by the very old who slowly lose the life they knew, now living with "embers left from earlier fires". The parents who brought us up against all odds, showering love and resources regardless of their own deprivations, are no longer considered important and have shifted to the margins of our lives.

Dogged by the fundamental changes that affect all of us in time, all they require would be concern and care, love and kindness, and a quiet affirmation that we need them. Today, with time at a premium, we are always in a rush to meet deadlines, pandering to irate bosses, clambering up the slippery corporate pole... Of course parents themselves would be happy if their children were aspirational, achieving their goals, but they have the right to expect their offspring to treat them with respect and humanity.



Above all they need to belong, a recognition of all that they had done, the feeling they are still valued and loved and an integral part of our lives and families. Often when children are in affluent circumstances, parents are consigned to retirement homes, albeit with all facilities, and rarely come to visit them. With children in lesser circumstances, parents are a necessary burden to deal with till they finally depart. It is heartrending to note that a large number of elders today are subjected to verbal and physical abuse.

Beyond individuals, governments and institutions need to pitch in, in an age of shifting demographics, to drive awareness programmes and promulgate stricter laws for their agency and protection. Merely setting aside dates in the calendar for ageing without meaningful action is meaningless. One of the Ten Commandments in the Bible says, "Honour thy father and mother." The Mahabharata is full of examples where elders like Bhishma, Drona, and Vidura are treated with reverence by Krishna and the Pandavas, though they were with the feuding faction. This is *parampara*, deeply rooted and carried forward through time. Our offspring might treat us the way we treated our elders. Let it be with love and gratitude.

Rainbow to rupture: Why NDA's Tamil Nadu chapter is coming undone

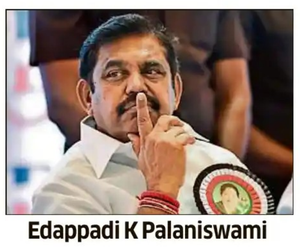
Panneerselvam and Dhinakaran have quit the alliance amid rift with Palaniswami

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Ever since his party revived ties with the BJP in April, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has been expressing confidence that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Tamil Nadu will expand by inducting more parties to take the DMK alliance head-on in the 2026 polls.

Further, in one of his campaign meetings in July, Palaniswami claimed that a "grand party" will join the NDA, even as questions were raised about the cohesiveness of the combine, which failed in both elections it contested in 2019 and 2021.

But what has transpired is that Palaniswami's former boss O Panneerselvam and the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), led by T T V Dhinakaran — neither considered major players — have exited the NDA. They had joined the alliance in 2024, when the BJP, under its then state chief K Annamalai, stitched together a rainbow coalition.


Edappadi K Palaniswami

Their exit has raised questions about whether Palaniswami was serious about fighting the DMK in the polls or merely interested in ensuring his supremacy in the AIADMK. It is an open secret that Palaniswami is opposed to OPS and TTV being part of the NDA, especially at a time when calls for the AIADMK's unification are growing louder.

The DMDK, the only party that allied with the AIADMK in 2024, is also keeping a distance from Palaniswami.

Another ally of the BJP, the Paatali Makkal Katchi (PMK), is beset with internal problems, with party founder S Ramadoss and his son Anbumani involved in a messy public fight, leaving the AIADMK, BJP and Tamil Maanila Congress, the only constituents of the NDA, for now.

OPS and Dhinakaran had felt sidelined ever since the AIADMK joined the NDA. The BJP's priority of keeping Palaniswami in good humour unsettled both.

OPS decided to call it quits when he was denied an appointment with PM Narendra Modi during his visit to Tamil Nadu in July. Though Dhinakaran was patient by giving the benefit of the doubt to the BJP, his supporters were growing restless over EPS not acknowledging them as part of the NDA. "TTV is someone who believes in giving and taking respect. I don't think this is a knee-jerk reaction. He must have felt insulted. His only expectation was a formal announcement that his party was part of the NDA. When even that was not being met, I think he decided enough is enough," a source told *DH*.

Nirmala slams DMK, flags caste crimes in Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI, PTI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu is raising emotive issues around language and Dravidian identity to target the BJP, as it has no answers to allegations of corruption and caste crimes plaguing its government.

Nirmala Sitharaman

She asserted that there can be "no bigger bogus argument" than that her party is against Dravidian interests.

Speaking to PTI, the finance minister was scathing in her condemnation of the DMK government in the state, citing corruption allegations against ministers, incidents of crimes against women, caste violence, especially against Dalits, and the "rise" in drug abuse, and said the party has no answers to these charges.

"Their (DMK) time is spent on not looking at these incidents but bringing separatist logic. They allege their tax money is going to Bihar. Is Bihar in Pakistan? People from Bihar can work in your factories. You can make your profit. But you want to keep your tax money to yourself. Separatist mindset dominates the so-called Dravidian model of politics," Nirmala said.

At least 10 killed, many hurt during Ganesh Visarjan across Maha

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

At least 10 people died, while six are missing and five were injured during the immersion of Ganesh idols in Maharashtra over the weekend, which marked the culmination of the 11-day Ganeshotsav.

While most of the deaths were because of drowning, Mumbai reported a major electrocution incident.

During the immersion procession on Khairani Road in Mumbai's Kurla, a hanging electric wire touched a Ganpati idol, injuring six devotees. One of them was pronounced dead at the Seven Hills Hospital, and five others are undergoing treatment.

Another incident was reported from the Shahapur tehsil, when five volunteers of the Shivtej Mitra Mandal fell into the Bharangi River during Visarjan. One person died, two were rescued, and a search operation was underway for the remaining two.

In the Pune district, two were swept away in the Bhama river at Waki Khurd, as was one at Shel Pimpalgaon in the Chakan area, while one slipped into a well at Birwadi.

The bodies of the first two had been recovered, while search operations were underway for the other two.

In the Nanded district, three people fell into a river, of whom one was rescued, while the search was underway for two others.

In Nashik, four persons drowned during the immersion process, with the body of one victim being recovered in Sinnar.

In Jalgaon, three people were swept away in separate incidents; efforts were on to trace them.

Mathura, Kashi: RSS backs dialogue

Jodhpur meet says solution not via conflict or agitation

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), in a statement released after the three-day meeting of RSS affiliates in Jodhpur on Sunday, said that the solution to the Kashi-Mathura issues would not be "sought through conflict or agitation, but through legal and mutual dialogue".

SUNIL AMBEKAR
RSS national publicity head

"Primary education should be in the mother tongue, and respect for all Indian languages is essential. There is no opposition to English, but Indian languages must get their due place in education and administration.

The iteration of the Sangh position on the disputes comes close on the heels of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent statement during a lecture series in Delhi, where he had stated that the organisation would not support "a movement for the reclamation of Kashi and Mathura, but swayamsevaks were free to participate in any such effort".

The Jodhpur meeting, or the Akhil Bharatiya Samanvay Baithak Sangh, was held just ahead of the annual Vijayadashami address of the RSS chief in October first week, which will mark the beginning of the centenary year celebrations of the saffron outfit.

The coordination committee also expressed concern over increasing religious conversions, the spread of drugs among youth in Punjab, "infiltration from Bangladesh and the challenges related to citizen security in West Bengal".

Expressing appreciation for the peace efforts in Manipur, the Sangh called the declining violence in the northeast a positive development.

The RSS affiliates working in the field of education were also asked to share their feedback on the National Education Policy. The meeting appreciated efforts to promote Indian languages and teaching in the mother tongue.

"Primary education should be in the mother tongue, and respect for all Indian languages is essential. There is no opposition to English, but Indian languages must get their due place in education and administration," RSS spokesperson Sunil Ambekar said in a statement.

Mayawati eyes comeback with big move to revive BSP in UP

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Reduced almost to the fringes in Uttar Pradesh politics, BSP supremo Mayawati on Sunday hinted at undertaking significant moves to revive the party ahead of the forthcoming panchayat polls and the next Assembly elections, due in 2027.

Mayawati, who presided over a state-level meeting of the party's office-bearers here on Sunday, decided to organise a huge public meeting on the occasion of BSP founder Kanshiram's death anniversary on October 9 as a show of strength.

Besides, the BSP would also embark upon a "ghar wapsi" campaign, during which the party would try to bring back its old and loyal leaders who deserted it in the past few years.

She has also decided to strengthen the party organisation at the grassroots level.

"The leaders have been given a target of bringing 5 lakh people to the state capitol on October 9... It's going to be a huge rally," said a state BSP leader who attended Sunday's meeting.

"The rally is intended to boost party workers' sagging morale as well as convey the message to rivals that the BSP is still a force to reckon with in UP," he added.

Confirming the plan to bring back those who quit the party, the leader said: "The return of Siddharth Ashok, the father-in-law of Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand, is an indication in this regard."

The BSP has been struggling to stay politically relevant in the state after losing power in the 2012 Assembly polls. It failed to open its account in UP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and could win only one seat in the 2022 Assembly polls.

How India voted for its vice presidents

1952, 1957
Electoral college: **715** (1952); **735** (1957)
S Radhakrishnan elected unopposed

1962
Electoral college: **745**
Votes cast: **596 (80%)**
Winner: **Zakir Hussain (568 votes)**
Loser: NC Samantsinhar (14 votes)
Invalid votes: **14**

1967
Electoral college: **749**
Votes cast: **679 (90.65%)**
Winner: **VV Giri (483 votes)**
Loser: Prof Habib (193)
Invalid votes: **3**

1969
Electoral college: **759**
Votes cast: NA
Winner: **GS Pathak (400)**
Loser: NA
Invalid votes: NA

1974
Electoral college: **767**
Votes cast: **672 (87.61%)**
Winner: **BD Jatti (521)**
Loser: NE Horo (141)
Invalid votes: **10**

1979
Electoral college: NA
Mohd Hidyattullah elected unopposed

1984
Electoral college: **790**
Votes cast: **745 (94.54%)**
Winner: **R Venkataraman (508)**
Loser: Bapu Chandrasen Kamble (207)
Invalid votes: **30**

1987
Electoral college: **790**
Shankar Dayal Sharma elected unopposed

1992
Electoral college: **790**
Votes cast: **711 (90%)**
Winner: **KR Narayanan (700)**
Loser: Kaka Joginder Singh (1)
Invalid votes: **10**

1997
Electoral college: **790**
Votes Cast: **760 (96.2%)**
Winner: **Krishan Kant (441)**
Loser: Surjit Singh (273)
Invalid votes: **46**

2002
Electoral college: **790**
Votes cast: **766 (96.96%)**
Winner: **Bhairon Singh Shekhawat (454)**
Loser: Sushil Kumar Shinde (305)
Invalid cotes: **7**

2007
Electoral college: **790**
Votes cast: **762 (96.45%)**
Winner: **Hamid Ansari (455)**
Losers: Najma Heptullah (222); Rasheed Masood (75)
Invalid votes: **10**

2012
Electoral college: **790**
Votes cast: **736 (93.16%)**
Winner: **Hamid Ansari (490)**
Loser: Jaswant Singh (238)
Invalid votes: 8

2017
Electoral college: **785**
Votes cast: **771 (98.21%)**
Winner: **M Venkaiah Naidu (516)**
Loser: Gopalkrishna Gandhi (244)
Invalid votes: **11**

2022
Electoral college: **780**
Votes cast: **725 (92.95%)**
Winner: **Jagdeep Dhankhar (528)**
Loser: Margaret Alva (182)
Invalid votes: **15**

Vote for country, not party, Oppn VP candidate urges MPs

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Accusing the Modi government of favouring "a few at the cost of crores of citizens" who are "increasingly being pushed to the margins," Opposition vice-presidential candidate Justice B Sudershan Reddy on Sunday appealed to MPs to vote guided by love for the country—not loyalty to any party.

In a video message released two days before the polls, Justice Reddy said electing him would mean that they have chosen to defend parliamentary traditions, to restore dignity to debate, and to ensure that the Rajya Sabha stands as a true temple of democracy.

Recalling BR Ambedkar's remarks that "democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic", he said, "this especially resonates after our experience with the regime that has favoured a few at the cost of crores of citizens of India — Dalits, tribals, backward communities, women, minorities, youth — who are increasingly being pushed to the margins."

He said it is their duty to prove that democracy in India "lives not just in emblematic institutions, but in spirit," and as VP, he would dedicate himself to preserving the sanctity of the parliamentary system by ensuring "absolute neutrality" in proceedings.

"I seek your support not for myself, but for the values that define us as a sovereign democratic Republic. In this election, there is no party whip, and the ballot is secret. It is not loyalty to any political party, but love for the country that must guide your choice," he said.

"Each one of you carries the moral responsibility to preserve the conscience, the soul of our beloved nation...This is not just a vote to elect your Vice President - it is a vote for the spirit of India itself. Together, let us strengthen our Republic and create a legacy that future generations will be proud to inherit," he said.

He said one of his key priorities will be to keep Parliamentary practices transparent, inclusive, and participatory so that disruptions don't overshadow deliberations.

Woman abducted, raped by two friends in Kolkata

KOLKATA, PTI: A 20-year-old woman was allegedly raped by two of her friends in the city's Haridevpur area, a police officer said on Sunday.

The woman alleged in her complaint lodged with the police that she was abducted by the two accused and taken to a place near Malancha on Saturday night, where she was raped. "The two accused have fled, and we are searching for them. The victim is being medically examined," the officer said.

"One of the two accused, Chandan Mallick, had invited the victim to a birthday party yesterday. But the woman did not want to go. Later, Chandan and his friend Debangshu Biswas abducted her from her home and took her to the Malancha area and raped her multiple times," he said.

3 workers die in gas leak at MP factory

DHAR, PTI: Three workers died on Sunday due to gas leakage while cleaning a chemical tank at a factory in Pithampur industrial area of Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, a police official said.

The incident took place at 8.30 pm at Shri Sagar Lubricant Oil Factory in Bagdun police station limits, about 45 km from the district headquarters, Additional Superintendent of Police Vijay Dawar said.

"Sushil (30), Deepak (35) and Jagdish (32) died after inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning a chemical tank. Their bodies have been sent to Indore's Maharaja Yeshwantrao Hospital," Dawar said.

After the gas leakage, one of the workers fell unconscious, while two of his colleagues tried to help him and also got affected, factory manager Lokesh Gupta said.

Modi opts for back row at BJP meet ahead of VP poll

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attended the BJP MPs' workshop at the GMC Balayogi Auditorium in the Parliament complex, where he chose to sit in the last row among fellow parliamentarians in a rare gesture.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others during 'Sansad Karyashala' in New Delhi. PTI

In a photo shared by BJP MP Ravi Kishan, Modi is seen seated in the last row of the auditorium among other members of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

"At the NDA MPs' workshop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seated in the last row, embodies the strength of the BJP; every worker is part of this organisation," BJP MP Ravi Kishan wrote on X.

The two-day workshop featured several sessions on the party's history, evolution and strategies to enhance parliamentary efficiency.

GST reforms

On the first day, MPs unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the Centre's sweeping Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms. Prime Minister Modi was felicitated during the event for implementing the GST reforms.

The opening day of the workshop focused on two central themes: 'Towards a Developed India by 2027' and 'Effective Use of Social Media by MPs'.

The party MPs deliberated on key sectors including agriculture, defence, energy, education, railways and transport.

The sessions for the lawmakers also covered preparations for the upcoming parliamentary session, parliamentary procedures, subordinate legislation and effective time management within the House.

Training for VP poll

The second day of the workshop (Monday) will be dedicated to training MPs for the vice presidential elections scheduled for September 9.

BJP MP Jagdambika Pal said the party organises workshops to guide MPs on their roles within their constituencies.

"The BJP is the only political party that regularly conducts workshops for its MPs, MLAs and other representatives, focusing on development, public engagement and outreach," he said.

"The workshops also cover national and international developments, and practical aspects," Pal said.

Trinamool targets BJP as UP, Bihar residents sit for Bengal school teacher recruitment exam

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

With several candidates from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh taking the test for selection for appointment as teachers in West Bengal on Sunday, the ruling Trinamool Congress, which drew flak for the 2016 school recruitment scam, sought to turn the tables on the BJP, highlighting unemployment in the states ruled by the saffron party.

Over 91% of nearly 3.19 lakh candidates registered for the School Level Selection Test conducted by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) turned up at 636 centres and sat for the examination for the recruitment of 23,212 teachers for Class IX and X students in the schools run by the state government.

The commission will conduct a separate test on September 14 for over 2.46 lakh candidates vying for the 12,514 posts of teachers for Class XI and XII at 478 centres across the state.

The BJP has been criticising the state's TMC government ever since the Supreme Court on April 3 upheld the Calcutta High Court's 2024 verdict invalidating the appointment of government-school employees recruited by the WBSSC in 2016. With the Bengal Assembly elections about a year away, the BJP has been citing this verdict as a vindication of its allegations of the TMC's large-scale corruption.

Over 31,000 candidates from other states, including some states ruled by the BJP and its allies, came to Bengal to write the test, according to the WBSSC.

"Instead of employment, UP's students get police batons; instead of a future, they get unemployment queues," the TMC posted on X, along with the video of a candidate from the state that showed the individual criticising Chief Minister Adityanath's government for the lack of employment opportunities.

Many candidates from "Yogi Rajya" complained about the lack of jobs there, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh wrote on X.

"By the way, no one here said that only the residents of West Bengal would be allowed to take the test for jobs in this state. No one stopped them or harassed them," said Ghosh, taking a dig at the BJP-led governments in states where Bengali-speaking migrant workers from West Bengal were branded as "Bangladeshis" and harassed during police crackdowns.

'Namo Yuva Run' to mark Modi's 75th birthday

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the youth wing of the BJP, on Sunday announced the launch of the 'Namo Yuva Run' campaign to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday, which falls on September 17.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and BJP MP and BJYM president Tejasvi Surya launched the campaign along with actor-model Milind Soman, who was named its brand ambassador.

The initiative aims to encourage young people to embrace fitness and steer clear of drug use, Mandaviya said.

The event featured the unveiling of the campaign's official registration portal (www.namoyuvarun.com), along with its logo, mascot and T-shirt.

"The BJYM is organising the 'Namo Yuva Run' with the theme of 'Nasha Mukt Bharat' across 100 cities simultaneously on September 21. Between 10,000 and 15,000 young participants are expected to join the run at each location," Surya said.

Mandaviya said that while the entire country wishes to offer Modi gifts on his birthday, the PM instead urges citizens to pledge their commitment to the nation.

"In response to this call, members of the BJYM have organised the run to address the challenge of drug addiction," he said.

'T for troublemaker': JD(U) & RJD in alphabet war over Tejashwi

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

A day after former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav posed 10 pointed questions to Nitish Kumar, demanding an explanation for the state's deteriorating condition, the ruling Janata Dal (United) launched a full-blown counter-attack against the RJD leader.

The JD(U) responded by "decoding" Tejashwi's name — assigning a personality trait to each letter.

Tejashwi Yadav

"T stands for troublemaker, E for escapist, J for jealous, and A for arrogant," said JD(U) chief spokesperson and former minister Neeraj Kumar. "As for the remaining letters in his name, S stands for selfish, H for hypocrite, W for wasteful, and I for incompetent," said Kumar, a key aide of CM Nitish Kumar.

The JD(U), which shared power with the RJD (and appointed Tejashwi as Nitish's deputy) from August 2022 to January 2024, has, for the first time, launched such a personal attack on the RJD leader, who is the I.N.D.I.A bloc's undeclared chief ministerial candidate for the upcoming November Assembly elections.

It all began with Tejashwi posing 10 questions to Nitish, urging him to respond in detail to each issue he raised. Tejashwi wanted to know why Bihar was still a poor state; why women were unsafe in the state; why health services remained paralysed; why crime, corruption and unemployment were at an all-time high; why people were migrating out of the state, and so on.

In its rebuttal, the JD(U) blamed Tejashwi's parents Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi for the state's problems.

"Your father and mother served as chief ministers from 1990 to 2005, for 15 uninterrupted years. If anyone is to be held responsible for issues ranging from migration and poor health services to unemployment and decline in education, it is the RJD regime led by your parents," said Neeraj Kumar.

Hazratbal shrine dispute revives old tensions

Anger erupts over the National Emblem being placed on a plaque within shrine

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

50 detained
More than 50 people have been detained for questioning in connection with the vandalisation of a plaque with the Ashoka emblem in the Hazratbal shrine as police intensified searches for those involved in the incident, officials said on Sunday.

The Hazratbal shrine, the most revered religious site in Kashmir that has witnessed some of the Valley's most turbulent episodes, is once again at the heart of a controversy.

This time, anger has erupted over the installation of the National Emblem — the Ashok Chakra — on an inauguration plaque within the shrine complex, sparking fears that the situation could escalate into wider unrest.

The controversy came to the fore on Friday when worshippers damaged the plaque and shouted slogans against the J&K Waqf Board.

Protesters argued that Islam forbids sculptures or emblematic figures inside places of worship, accusing shrine managers of insensitivity to religious sentiments.

Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah called the move "deeply insensitive".

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)'s chief Mehbooba Mufti has demanded action under blasphemy laws against Waqf Board chairperson and BJP leader Darakhshan Andrabi.

She called for an FIR to be filed against the person responsible for installing the board rather than those who reacted in anger. Her remarks came in response to Andrabi's call that those involved in defacing the plaque be booked under the Public Safety Act.

Caught in the middle, security officials admitted that this was a tricky situation.

"If we take action against those who vandalised the emblem and arrest them, it may lead to more protests and snowball into a major issue. If we don't, it may be seen as a weakness," a senior officer told *DH*.

The row threatens to undo the relative calm of recent years, with political observers warning it could unite mainstream parties and religious groups against the BJP, undermining the peace and stability achieved in the past six years.

Hazratbal's history underscores why controversies here stir deep emotions. In December 1963, the disappearance of the holy relic — believed to be a strand of hair of Prophet Muhammad — triggered mass protests across the Valley, forcing New Delhi to intervene and reshaping Kashmiri politics in what became known as the 1964 Holy Relic Movement.

In October 1993, the shrine witnessed a month-long army siege when militants took refuge inside, sparking protests.

Analysts say the row has touched the raw nerves as the previous crises did.

Pocso conviction can rest on child's reliable testimony: HC

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Delhi High Court has upheld a man's 12-year jail term for raping a 10-year-old girl in 2017, saying the child's testimony inspired confidence and was reliable, and the conviction could rest upon it alone.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri passed the order on September 3 while dismissing an appeal filed by the convict, Tonny.

"The settled position of law is that even if the victim is the sole witness to the incident, a conviction can be sustained if her testimony is found to be credible and reliable," the judge said.

"If the testimony of the child victim inspires confidence and is reliable, the conviction can rest upon it," the judge said.

According to the FIR, the convict worked at a wood workshop near the child's school and lured her with food items such as chowmein and 'kachori', before repeatedly raping her inside his shop.

He further threatened to "drown her in a drain or cut her like a piece of wood" if she disclosed the abuse.

The judge noted that the child's stand remained consistent and credible, and the accused was not able to demolish her testimony in cross-examination.

Arunachal activist detained at Delhi airport en route to Dublin

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Anti-dam activist and Arunachal Pradesh-based lawyer Bhanu Tatak was detained at the Delhi airport on Sunday while trying to board a flight for Ireland's capital city Dublin.

Tatak, a legal advisor for Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum (SIFF), was apparently flying to Dublin to take part in a three-month-long fellowship offered by Dublin City University as a "visiting specialist".

Dublin City University invited Tatak to study topics including history, literature, philosophy, and sociology as a visiting specialist by engaging with the faculty and students. The programme was scheduled to begin on Monday.

However, she was stopped by the immigration staff, her travel documents seized, and she was not allowed to take her flight, citing pending police cases in Arunachal Pradesh.

"I was stopped from taking my flight to Dublin," Tatak said on Sunday morning, adding: "The immigration officer did not give any written information about why I was denied boarding, but there are false cases registered against me on false charges."

Tatak was eventually released from detention, but she missed her flight.

According to sources in Arunachal Pradesh, the Itanagar police registered cases against Tatak based on complaints by the state government for allegedly being a part of the SIFF's agitation against the construction of a big dam in the Siang river.

The SIFF stopped a pre-feasibility study for the Siang multi-purpose project. While the Centre argued that the multi-purpose dam on the Siang river would "counter" the possible adverse impact of the Chinese 60,000-MW dam, the SIFF said it would have adverse impacts on the ecology and displace tribal villagers.

HC must exercise restraint when plea is pending before top court: Supreme Court

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has taken an exception to the Kerala High Court order that modified the conditions of anticipatory bail of an accused when a plea challenging such a relief was pending before the apex court, saying this was contrary to the principles of judicial propriety and comity.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Vipul M Pancholi said that when the SC was considering a challenge to the order for grant of anticipatory bail, the HC could not modify its decision on miscellaneous applications filed by the accused.

The bench said the proper administration of justice demanded that when an order passed by the HC was under challenge and notice had been issued by the apex court and if any application was filed for modification of the said order thereafter, the HC must exercise restraint, as far as practicable, in passing any orders which could possibly circumvent, prejudice, or render infructuous the proceedings pending before the apex court.

The apex court stayed the HC order, which ordered the release of the passport of accused Anitha R Nair and the permission granted by the HC to travel to Singapore.

Expressing "grave displeasure" with the conduct of the accused, the bench said: "In our view, the orders passed by the HC modifying the order which is under challenge before this court, during the pendency of this special leave petition, are contrary to the judicial propriety and discipline which is expected from the HC."

The court also asked the accused to explain why her pre-arrest bail should not be cancelled on account of concealment of facts.

"We would like to reserve our views in respect of the conduct of the accused for the time being, while expressing our grave displeasure," it said.

It scheduled the matter for consideration on September 26.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

BUMSTEAD, I HAVE SO MANY THINGS TO SAY ABOUT YOUR PERFORMANCE I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS RIGHT NOW
SO I'LL JUST TEXT THEM TO YOU LATER TONIGHT
TURN OFF ALL THE RINGERS ON ALL OF OUR DEVICES

Hagar The Horrible

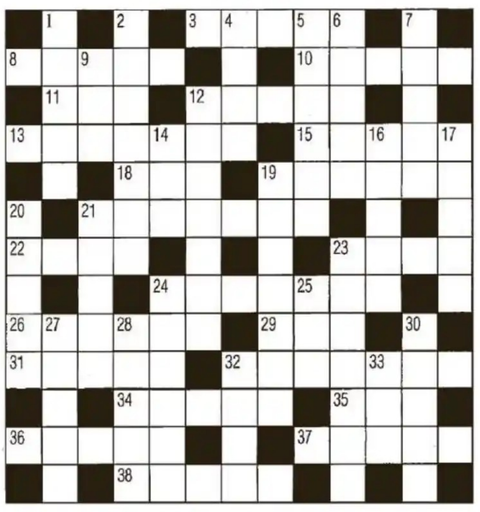
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

HERE'S SOMETHING NEW...
IT'S A COMBINATION OF FRENCH ONION SOUP, FRENCH FRIES, FRENCH TOAST, FRENCH DRESSING AND FRENCH VANILLA ICE CREAM
HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S NEW...
I'VE LOST MY APPETITE!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12241



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Wee bit waspish, was it? (5)
8 Artist evicted from a caravan in Ireland (5)
10 Shows a list of footwear parts (5)
11 On the quiet, dad doesn't need his teeth for it (3)
12 Something afoot for the cyclist (5)
13 He takes care to need only a month to compose a trio (7)
15 Possibly final appeals? (5)
18 That website woman (3)
19 Noted persons (possibly pianists?) (3,3)
21 Like a variant of the red teal (7)
22 Like those piano pieces in E, say? (4)
23 Being upset by pals can be a blow (4)
24 Hurry to sink the ship (7)
26 The richest young people can have such coughs (6)
29 Regret taking the part of Pantagruel (3)
31 It's quickly made (5)
32 Period of green development by company outsiders (7)
34 In "The Tempest", the part I'm in a real mess with! (5)
35 Something like a tank tax? (3)
36 Child with a devious brain (5)
37 What a toper may do wrong in the garden shed (5)
38 He should manage to get the tone right (5)

DOWN
1 Land of lacquer (5)
2 Hit casually yet quickly (7)
4 Declare Vera to be at fault (4)
5 Measured up formally? (6)
6 Entertainment with vision (5)
7 Small plants blown about in a gale (5)
9 It carries goods in advance (3)
12 The power cleverly to copy out a number (7)
14 One may add to the family (3)
16 Zola, perhaps (or could it be Heskey?) (5)
17 Photos of bridges being raised? (5)
19 May go flying off the side of the helter-skelter! (7)
20 Sit in the upper chamber (5)
21 Fools cavorting in wild seas around Spithead (5)
23 Arms cases (7)
24 Enters as a novelist (6)
25 Pull out of Portugal (3)
27 Meat for the boys (5)
28 Initiate as a nervous reaction? (5)
30 Person of many parts (5)
32 Where to end a united state in the United States (4)
33 The rest may be had after a meal (3)

ACROSS
3 Assumed name (5)
8 Spanish snacks (5)
10 Foolish (5)
11 Animal doctor (3)
12 Buckets (5)
13 Become popular (5,2)
15 Artist's stand (5)
18 Pelvis (3)
19 Expunge (6)
21 Type of sauce (7)
22 Mother's sister (4)
23 Lion's long hair (4)
24 Craftsman (7)
26 Detain during wartime (6)
29 Rowing blade (3)
31 Gangway (5)
32 Kill brutally (7)
34 Book of maps (5)
35 Sing with closed lips (3)
36 Molars, say (5)
37 Stinking (5)
38 Premature (5)

DOWN
1 Of a navy (5)
2 Short axe (7)
4 Act of lending (4)
5 Slumbering (6)
6 Fibre for making rope (5)
7 Precipitation (5)
9 Someone's favourite (3)
12 Cinema snack (7)
14 Strike (3)
16 Chair on poles (5)
17 Horizontal (5)
19 Questionable (7)
20 Criminal organisation (5)
21 Makes woollens (5)
23 Walks in formation (7)
24 Girl's name (6)
25 Was seated (3)
27 African country (5)
28 Exhilarate (5)
30 Post off (5)
32 Wail (4)
33 Cabin (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2644

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1 Backing, 5 Georgia, 9 Risotto, 10 Ostrich, 11 Erase, 12 Lower case, 13 Keep order, 15 Theme, 16 Drink, 18 West Point, 21 By-product, 24 Rapid, 25 Obliged, 26 Low-down, 27 Swelter, 28 Harness.

DOWN: 1 Berserk, 2 Cascade, 3 In the dock, 4 Growl, 5 Good works, 6 Outer, 7 Grimace, 8 Achieve, 14 Down under, 15 Top drawer, 16 Dubious, 17 Impulse, 19 Improve, 20 Tidings, 22 Ought, 23 Tilth.

◆SU-DO-KU-6695◆

	5				2			
7	9		4			6		
2			1	3	7			
	1	3	6				8	
	7				3	2	6	
			3	1	9			8
		7			6		5	9
			2				1	

medium

SOLUTION TO 6694

2	6	8	5	4	1	7	3	9
9	1	4	7	8	3	6	2	5
5	3	7	2	6	9	8	1	4
8	7	1	3	5	6	9	4	2
3	4	5	8	9	2	1	7	6
6	2	9	4	1	7	3	5	8
7	5	2	9	3	8	4	6	1
4	9	6	1	7	5	2	8	3
1	8	3	6	2	4	5	9	7

To solve the puzzle:
To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
G2	N1	N1	R1	E1	I1	V4		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
E1	E1	M3	S1	N1	O1	O1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 3
I1	E1	D2	R1	D2	S1	E1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
S1	A1	E1	W4	O1	N1	P3		

PAR SCORE 210-220
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	S1	E1	U1	D2	O1	RACK 1	=	27
C3	O1	U1	L1	D2		RACK 2	=	8
C3	A1	V4	I1	T1	Y4	RACK 3	=	22
C3	A1	L1	V4	E1	S1	RACK 4	=	22
J8	U1	S1	T1	L1	Y4	RACK 5	=	16
PAR SCORE 60-70						JUDD'S TOTAL		95

HITORI-3149

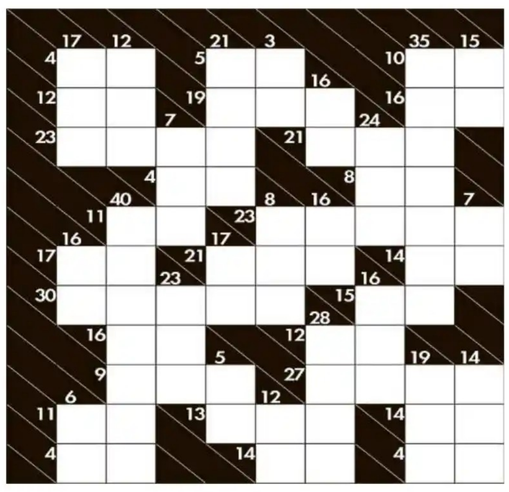
1	4	8	7	5	2	4	4
7	6	4	2	4	4	4	3
3	4	6	1	4	5	8	2
2	5	4	5	8	7	4	1
7	2	7	4	5	3	6	5
4	8	8	3	2	4	1	5
5	8	1	6	8	8	4	4
6	4	5	8	1	5	3	7

SOLUTION TO 3148

■	5	■	1	■	7	2	4
3	8	5	7	1	2	4	■
8	3	■	2	■	1	■	6
5	■	1	■	8	■	6	7
1	6	2	5	7	4	3	■
2	1	■	4	6	■	8	3
■	7	8	■	2	5	1	■
6	2	■	3	4	■	5	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3149



SOLUTION TO 3148

To solve the puzzle:
Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3670

■								■
	■			6			8	
		7		4		■		
	2		4		■	8		
	9		2	■		4		
			■	8	6	1		3
		6	1	9		■		4
	■	5					■	7
7		9					3	■

SOLUTION TO 3669

1	9	2	8	5	4	7	6	3
8	6	7	2	3	1	5	9	4
4	5	3	9	7	6	8	1	2
9	3	6	5	4	7	2	8	1
7	1	5	3	2	8	9	4	6
2	8	4	6	1	9	3	5	7
6	2	1	7	8	5	4	3	9
3	4	8	1	9	2	6	7	5
5	7	9	4	6	3	1	2	8

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

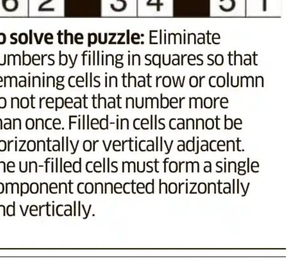
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CAHSO

LCYKU

SFNTAE

LYIASE


Put that TV down. Then stand there with your arms raised. After that, put your arms behind your back and turn around. I'm going to walk over there to handcuff you. Then I'll read you your rights...
OK. Could you hold this for a second?
3/1
THE POLICE OFFICER WAS BEING METHODICAL, BUT THE THIEF WANTED TO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Ans. here: ○○○ TO THE ○○○○○○ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FUNGI SLOSH DETACH COZIER
Answer: The distracted driver had the music turned up too loud, which led to a — "CRUSH-END-O"

BSE (last week)

*Data as of Sep 5

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
M&M	11.36%	HCL TECH	-2.47%
TATA STEEL	8.55%	INFY	-1.71%
BAJAJ FINANCE	6.82%	LT	-1.31%
BAJAJ FINSERV	5.32%	TCS	-1.17%
ETERNAL	4.77%	HINDUNILVR	-1.01%

NSE (last week)

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
M&M	11.31%	HCL TECH	-2.46%
TATA STEEL	8.54%	WIPRO	-2.30%
EICHER MOT	7.82%	CIPLA	-2.27%
BAJAJ FINANCE	6.81%	INFOSYS	-1.70%
HINDALCO INDS	5.66%	HDFC LIFE INS	-1.62%

Sensex (52-week)

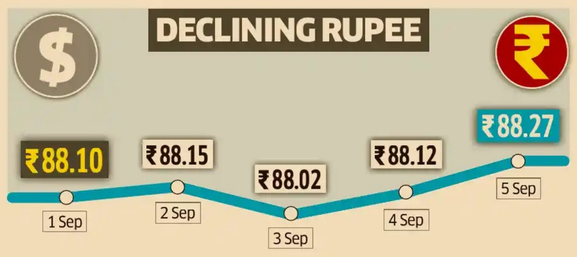
Sep 5, 2024	Sep 5, 2025	
82,201.16	80,710.76	-1.81%

Nifty (52-week)

Sep 5, 2024	Sep 5, 2025	
25,145.10	24,741.00	-1.61%

10-year Bond yield 6.46%

DECLINING RUPEE



Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹ 88.27	SGD	₹ 68.96
Pound	₹ 118.91	Yen (100 units)	₹ 59.59
Euro	₹ 103.08		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$65.50*
-2.22%
*Rate as of Sep 7

Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)

Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹0%
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹0%

*Rates as of Sep 7 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹ 27300 - 27800
Arabica Cherry	₹ 14000 - 16200
Robusta Parchment	₹ 17500 - 18000
Robusta Cherry	₹ 11200 - 12200

*Rates as on Sep 5

Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹ 704
Cross Breed (CB)	₹ 625

*Average rates as on Sep 7

US trade policy may shift quickly: Scott Wang

DH INTERVIEW

Today, global trade is being reshaped not just by tariffs or geopolitical tensions in several places but also by policy unpredictability. The uncertainties are hitting developing economies. India is no exception. Against this backdrop, *DH's* **Mrityunjay Bose** spoke to **Scott Wang**, Vice President, Asia Pacific, World Trade Centers Association. Wang draws from his twenty years of expertise in business relations and trade in the United States, China and other Asian countries to lead WTCA's efforts in developing business relations in the Asia Pacific region. Edited excerpts:

India's geopolitical risks continue to rise amidst developments across the world. How do you look at this?

Like most other countries, India has to adjust its foreign policy against the backdrop of shifting global landscape in order to maximise its national interests. Opportunities always come along with crises and India is working to mitigate risks and re-balance its trade relations. WTCA helps members navigate risks through shared tools and knowledge. Most recently, we collaborated with the Hague Center for Strategic Studies (HCSS) and developed a great tool called the Geopolitical Annual Trade Risk Index (GATRI) to help our global members and business communities assess geopolitical risk on trade via a straightforward annual index figure, which significantly simplifies the decision-making process for companies of all sizes with exposure to international business.

For the US, India is the biggest trade partner. How does the Trump Tariff affect it?

Given the current US tariff rate on India, many of India's export sectors will be affected. However the impact on India's overall growth is projected to be around 0.5% since India's dependence on external trade is relatively low compared to many other export-oriented countries in the Asia Pacific. On the other hand, the trade negotiation with the US is still ongoing and the US trade policy may shift quickly. Rather than speculating, WTCA encourages focusing on India's inherent strengths: its demographics, growing markets, and resilient business networks which continue to drive opportunity.

A lot of layoffs are being seen as a possible fallout.

While companies and individuals will be going through ups and downs of economic circles, we believe India's competitiveness and resilience will sustain it through the downward curve. Global trade and investment climates are dynamic, and businesses often adapt in ways that create new opportunities even amidst uncertainty.

Scott Wang

AI and ML are set to play a lot of roles in international business. How will it impact global trade?

AI and ML are already transforming industries, from logistics to manufacturing to services. Like every major innovation, the key for businesses is to stay adaptive and seize the opportunities these technologies bring.

In the emerging global order, what role does the WTCA propose to play?

As one of the top international trade associations with a network covering 300+ major cities in nearly 100 countries and territories, the WTCA has been facilitating international trade and investment across the globe for over half a century. While the global order changes over time, the WTCA has never changed its commitment to free and fair trade, open market, and healthy competition through trade and people-to-people communication. WTCA's role to promote international collaboration is even more significant and relevant as the world is getting increasingly divided today.

What role is WTCA playing in building Tier II and III cities as global trade hubs aligning with India's 'Make in India' and National Logistics Policy?

As an international trade organisation dedicated to stimulating trade and investment opportunities, WTCA understands that the development of these Tier 2 and 3 cities is crucial to India's further economic growth, infrastructure investment, inclusive development and regional disparity reduction. To this end, a key part of our India strategy has been to serve as a catalyst that will help these cities emerge as important economic hubs for India. Our global network has achieved astonishing expansion in the last decade and covers more than 30 cities in India, with a majority of them being these Tier 2 and 3 cities.

MBRDI & TERI white-paper focuses on skilling for EV charging infra

It flags lack of hands-on training, non-standardised modules, & trainer shortage

BENGALURU, DHNS

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), in a joint report, have highlighted the importance of charge point operators (CPOs), who form the backbone of EV infrastructure.

The report identifies the lack of hands-on training opportunities, the lack of standardised training modules for CPOs, and the shortage of qualified trainers who understand both technical and operational aspects of EV charging infrastructure among the top barriers in skilling CPOs.

Titled "EV Charging in India: Ecosystem Perspectives and Skilling Opportunities", the whitepaper is a comprehensive analysis of India's EV charging ecosystem, examining existing skill gaps and opportunities for manpower deployment. Extensive consultations were carried out with 150 experts from across the EV value chain in India.

The report also highlights that nearly 50% of the skill requirements for CPOs are in the fields of installation and testing of EV charging infrastructure and IoT-enabled digital applications, followed by troubleshooting faults in charging infrastructure, service quality optimisation, and smart grid integration, among others.

MBRDI and TERI have introduced the 'Future-In-Charge' programme. Launched as part of Sustainability Garage – a Mercedes-Benz Initiative, the programme is aimed at building a comprehensive training ecosystem that combines technical know-how with practical, hands-on exposure, ensuring that young professionals are equipped to support the nation's transition to sustainable mobility.

"With Future-In-Charge, we are not only bridging the skills gap but also tackling the systemic barriers to bringing about a holistic change in the EV skilling and infrastructure landscape," said Manu Saale, Managing Director and CEO, MBRDI.

The first pilot cohort of 60 trainees has already started at TERI's Gwal Pahari campus, with students gaining exposure to real-world charging equipment and case-based learning. This will serve as the basis for scaling the program to multiple locations across India, working in close collaboration with CPOs, academic institutions, and industry partners.

Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute, said, "With India accelerating its shift towards clean mobility, building a skilled workforce in EV charging infrastructure is crucial. Future-In-Charge, a joint initiative of TERI and MBRDI, is a forward-looking step to bridge industry needs with youth talent. By providing NCVET-approved training aligned with the latest technological standards, we aim to empower the next generation of professionals to lead India's green jobs in the clean mobility journey with expertise and confidence."

Presently, India is the fourth-largest automotive manufacturer in the world, contributing to 7.1% of India's GDP and providing direct and indirect jobs to 19 million people. The transport sector is one of the most polluting sectors with road transport presently accounting for 12% of India's energy-related CO_2 emissions. To mitigate pollution and achieve its 2070 net-zero target, the nation is focusing on decarbonising transport through various government initiatives.

Food delivery likely to get costlier on platform fee hike, GST levy

NEW DELHI, PTI: The hike in platform fees by Zomato, Swiggy and magicpin ahead of the festive season is set to make ordering food costlier for millions of users across the country, which is likely to rise further due to the 18% GST levy on delivery charges from September 22.

Swiggy has hiked its platform fee to Rs 15, inclusive of GST, in select markets.

Rival Zomato has raised its platform fee to Rs 12.50 (excluding GST), whereas the third-largest food delivery player, magicpin, has also revised its platform fee to Rs 10 per order, in line with broader industry trends, making it expensive for food delivery consumers.

Estimates suggest that the additional burden on account of 18% GST to be levied on delivery charges from September 22 is expected to add roughly Rs 2 per order for Zomato users and Rs 2.6 for Swiggy customers.

E-mail queries sent to Swiggy and Zomato by PTI seeking responses remained unanswered.

A magicpin spokesperson told PTI that it has already been paying 18% GST on its food-delivery costs.

Axis Bank launches 'Pink Capital'

MUMBAI, DHNS

In a pioneering initiative, Axis Bank launched 'Pink Capital: The Spectrum of Queer Money', a qualitative report that explores the financial lives of India's LGBTQIA+ community.

The report's findings reveal that queer consumers prioritize essential needs, with the largest share allocated to Systemic Access & Equality (34.2%), followed by Healthcare & Safety (20%), Financial Security & Future Stability (18.6%), Emotional & Social Recognition (17.3%), and Lifestyle & Culture (10%).

These spending patterns reflect a community that prioritises survival, dignity, and long-term stability. Notably, mental health services and elder care emerged as key focus areas.

Among other insights, the study found that queer consumers are increasingly drawn to brands that offer tangible, inclusive solutions, such as joint accounts, pension access, and healthcare benefits. While inclusive branding is appreciated, it is everyday inclusion that builds lasting trust and loyalty.

In terms of financial security and future stability, two extremes emerged as focal points. While the youth stressed on banks and educational institutions that can create student loans, scholarships, and queer-focused savings or retirement products, the older cohort felt the need for community housing models and queer-affirming retirement homes.

"Over the years, Axis Bank has serviced thousands of accounts opened under the honorific marker 'Mx' or by Transgender Individuals—a testament to growing trust, deeper engagement with the community, and the rise of a distinct and increasingly visible customer segment," said Munish Sharda, Executive Director, Axis Bank.

Building on this progress, Axis Bank is taking inclusive banking a step further by uncovering the economic realities and aspirations of the LGBTQIA+ community through this report.

"By making Pink Capital visible, we are not just doing the right thing, we are building the future of inclusive finance in India," said Rajkamal Vempati, group executive and head of Human Resources, Axis Bank.

Pink Capital brings forward voices that have long been left out of financial conversations," said Harish Iyer, SVP and head - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Axis Bank.

The launch coincides with the 7th anniversary of the Supreme Court verdict on Section 377, a moment that reaffirmed dignity and authenticity for the LGBTQIA+ community. It was unveiled during Sparsh Week, Axis Bank's flagship celebration of culture and customers, reaffirming the Bank's commitment to service, inclusion, and customer-centricity.

Possible shortfall in nominal GDP growth in FY26 due to benign inflation: CEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: Given the expectation of benign inflation, there may be a shortfall in nominal GDP growth compared to the Budget estimate of 10.1% for the current financial year, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said.

He expressed optimism about meeting the real GDP growth target of 6.3-6.8% for the current fiscal year despite the US imposing a steep 50% tariff on Indian shipments.

Nominal GDP includes changes in prices caused by inflation, reflecting the impact of rising overall price levels, while real GDP is an inflation-adjusted measure that evaluates the value of all goods and services produced in a country during a specific year.

Inflation is expected to be low on account of an estimated good kharif harvest and a reduction in prices of around 400 items after landmark GST reforms were approved recently by the GST Council headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. "Some shortfall in nominal GDP growth may be there. I think there is a higher chance of that happening. However, what is encouraging to me is that the nominal GDP growth number at 8.8% for the first quarter was better than what many had feared that it would be, somewhere between 8 and 8.3 or 8.5%," he told PTI.

Ed-tech platform PhysicsWallah files for Rs 3,820 crore IPO

REUTERS: Education technology platform PhysicsWallah has filed for an initial public offering worth Rs 3,820 crore ($437 million), draft papers showed, as the market for new listings picks up pace.

The ed-tech industry has weathered a challenging few years in which SoftBank-backed Unacademy and Tiger Global-backed Vedantu cut staff while Byju's US lenders pushed the startup, once worth $22 billion, towards insolvency.

PhysicsWallah, whose backers include WestBridge and Hornbill Capital, aims to raise Rs 3,100 crore through fresh shares, with the rest coming from a sale offer by co-founders Alakh Pandey and Prateek Boob, Saturday's filing showed.

The platform, valued at $2.8 billion in September last year, plans to use issue proceeds to set up physical coaching centers, cover rent, boost technology and marketing, and fund acquisitions.

For the financial year ended March 31, PhysicsWallah's revenue from operations jumped 49% to Rs 2,887 crore, with its restated loss narrowing to Rs 243 crore, from Rs 1,131 crore a year earlier. PhysicsWallah reportedly filed draft papers with the market regulator through the confidential route to raise about Rs 4,600 crore.

GST CUT BENEFIT

Hyundai, Tata, Mahindra announce cut in vehicle prices

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Days after the GST Council approved rate rationalisation and reform in the indirect tax system, leading car manufacturers including Hyundai, Tata Motors, Mahindra, Toyota and Renault, have announced reduction in prices of their vehicles and reiterated commitment to fully pass on the benefits of tax cut to customers.

Hyundai announced on Sunday that it will cut car prices by up to Rs 2.4 lakh effective from September 22, the date revised GST rates are slated to come into effect.

"We sincerely appreciate the progressive and far-sighted move by the Government of India to reduce GST on passenger vehicles," Unsoo Kim, Managing Director, Hyundai Motor India, said.

"This reform is not only a boost to the automotive industry but also a strong step towards empowering millions of customers by making personal mobility more affordable and accessible," Kim added.

Hyundai Tucson model, which is priced at around Rs 30 lakh, will become cheaper by Rs 2.4 lakh. The price of Hyundai Venue model will go down by Rs 1.23 lakh. Nios will become cheaper by Rs 73,808 while price of i20 will be cut by Rs 98,053.

Tata Motors announced upto Rs 4.65 lakh cut in prices of commercial vehicles. The price of Tata Motors' heavy commercial vehicles will be lowered in the range of Rs 2.8 lakh to Rs 4.65 lakh. Prices of buses and vans will be reduced in the range of Rs 1.20 lakh to Rs 4.35 lakh, while the price of Tata Motors' small commercial vehicles will be reduced in the range of Rs 30,000 to Rs 1.1 lakh.

"The reduction in GST on commercial vehicles to 18% is a bold and timely step towards revitalising India's transport and logistics backbone," said Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors.

Tata Motors announced price cuts on Friday

He said the company has decided to extend the "full benefit of GST reduction on all our commercial vehicles to customers across the country."

On passenger cars, Tata Motors has announced upto Rs 1.55 lakh cut in prices. Tata Tiago will become cheaper by Rs 75,000, while Nexon price of Nexon will be cut by Rs 1.55. Tata Punch will become cheaper by Rs 85,000.

The GST Council, the top decision making body of the Goods and Services Tax system, in its meeting held on September 3 decided to slash GST on small cars, buses and other commercial vehicles like trucks and delivery vans, to 18% from 28%. Small car is defined as a vehicle under four metres in length with engines up to 1,200cc (petrol) or 1,500cc (diesel).

On larger cars a flat GST of 40% with no cess will apply from the current 28% plus cess.Even at 40%, the absence of cess will lower the effective tax on larger cars.

The announcement regarding a cut in the price of Hyundai Tucson, which falls under the larger car category, is a reflection of the extent of tax savings on larger cars. Mahindra & Mahindra has announced upto Rs 1.56 lakh cut in the prices of its SUV models. Luxury carmaker BMW has announced upto Rs 8.9 lakh reduction in the prices of its various models.

Other companies have also announced significant reduction in prices of large cars. Toyota Fortuner will get cheaper by up to Rs 3.49 lakh, while the price of Innova Crysta and Innova Hycross will drop by Rs 1.80 lakh and Rs 1.15 lakh, respectively.

Renault India has announced upto Rs 96,000 reduction in price of its vehicles. The starting price of Renault Kwid will come down to Rs 4.29 lakh from Rs 4.69 lakh. The price of Kiger and Triber models will start from Rs 5.76 lakh.

"Passing on the full GST 2.0 benefit is a reflection of our unwavering commitment to our customers. We believe this timely initiative will not only make our cars more accessible but also energise demand during the festive season," said Venkatram Mamillapalle, Managing Director, Renault India.

While the revised price will be applicable on deliveries made on or after September 22, customers can start booking at the new prices immediately across all dealerships nationwide, Renault said in a statement.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

Swiggy
(ID: SWIGGY)
BUY
Upside +28%**
Last close ₹439
Target: ₹560*

Phoenix Mills
(ID: PHOENIXLTD)
BUY
Upside +35%**
Last close ₹1,518
Target: ₹2,044*

Lemon Tree
(ID: LEMONTREE)
BUY
Upside +14%**
Last close ₹175
Target: ₹200*

Amber Ent
(ID: AMBER)
BUY
Upside +15%**
Last close ₹7,794
Target: ₹9,000*

Shriram Finance
(ID: SHRIRAMFIN)
BUY
Upside +32%**
Last close ₹593
Target: ₹780*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

Mistakes to avoid with the emergency fund

MRIN AGARWAL
FINANCIAL EDUCATOR, FOUNDER DIRECTOR OF FINSAFE INDIA PVT LTD

It is well known that the emergency fund is an absolute necessity for every family. During the COVID time, it was top of mind for people, however it is not given that much importance now. Life is full of surprises – not all pleasant and that's where the emergency fund will come in use.

The emergency fund is an amount kept aside for use in emergencies like a sudden medical situation, job loss etc. The amount recommended is 6-12 months of essential expenses. Emergency fund should be used only for contingencies and not to fund non-essential expenses like buying a gadget.

The emergency fund should be easily accessible at all times, as the crisis can strike anytime. Thus, investments like gold in physical form (coins, jewellery) are not a good choice for an emergency fund. For one, they cannot be sold in the middle of the night and even selling gold for cash is not easy. Some argue that a gold loan can be availed in such situations, but this will also take a couple of days.

Returns should not be the criteria while choosing the investment for the emergency fund. Volatile investments like equities and products with lock-in like insurance plans are to be completely avoided. NPS Tier 2 is being considered for emergency fund as it has no lock-in. Firstly, the redemption proceeds from NPS Tier 2 get credited after 2 business days provided redemption has been placed before 10.30am. Also, there is an equity component in NPS which makes it unfit to use for contingencies.

Arbitrage funds are also in the radar as they have lower taxation as compared to debt funds. However, arbitrage funds are suggested to be held for at least one year as the arbitrage opportunities may be limited in the short term. Liquid funds and ultra short duration funds are a good choice, since they invest in high-quality, short-term debt instruments. Even liquid funds and ultra short duration debt funds have a redemption cycle of t+1. Thus, having a part of the fund in the savings account would be useful.

A combination of the savings account, fixed deposits and ultra short duration debt funds works well for the emergency fund, as funds would be accessible at all times. All other investments like arbitrage, gold etc. should be used for other goals.

Finally, the fund needs to be replenished if used. Often, due to being preoccupied by the emergency, one forgets to rebuild the fund.

An emergency fund is your financial cushion that turns a crisis into a manageable setback and prevents a debt buildup.

How you pick from India's investment stack

The role of mutual funds, SIFs, PMS and AIFs explained

CHETAN KUKREJA

India's capital market rules have evolved into a clear, four-layer "investment stack". Each layer is designed for a different stage in an investor's journey – starting with widely accessible mutual funds and progressing to high ticket alternative funds. Understanding where each product fits can help investors align their choices with goals, budgets and time horizon.

Until a few years ago Indian investors faced a steep jump: from Rs 500 mutual-fund SIPs straight to Rs 50 lakh PMS mandates. That gulf left many emerging high-net-worth individuals without a suitable investment avenue. Regulatory developments such as–Portfolio Management Services (PMS) reforms in 2020 and the launch of Specialized Investment Fund (SIFs) in 2025–have filled the gaps. The result is a smooth continuum of professionally managed vehicles, each with clearly stated minimums, risk controls and disclosure norms.

Mutual funds are collective investment schemes governed by the SEBI (Mutual Fund) Regulations, 1996. Investors buy units that represent a slice of a diversified portfolio. Ticket sizes are small (many funds allow Rs 100 SIPs), making them India's preferred starter product. Key advantages include daily dealing, transparent net-asset values (NAVs) and a capped expense ratio. Investors can put in money through a one-time (lump-sum) payment or small, regular instalments known as Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs). Mutual funds also offer Systematic Withdrawal Plans (SWPs), allowing investors to withdraw a fixed amount at regular intervals, and Systematic Transfer plan (STPs), which let investors move money periodically from one fund to another – often from a debt fund to an equity fund – based on their financial goals. Funds come in different flavours—equity, debt, hybrid, index, sector—so you can match risk and return to your comfort level.

Specialised Investment Funds - Introduced in December 2024, SIFs sit midway between MFs and PMS. Experienced asset-management companies (AMCs) may launch them. SIF may pursue long-short, market-neutral, or other advanced strategies as defined in the circular, and can take aggregate unedged exposure of up to 25%. Cost is like MF and no performance fee. Close-ended SIFs must list on an exchange to give investors an exit.

Portfolio Management Services – is not a pooled vehicle; instead, the portfolio sits in the client's own demat account while a SEBI-registered manager executes trades. Discretionary PMS (the dominant format) lets the manager make all buy/sell calls within a stated mandate. The statutory minimum investment is Rs 50 lakh aggregated across all PMS accounts held by the investor with a portfolio manager. Because the securities belong directly to the client, PMS offers: full visibility into holdings, T+2 liquidity (subject to market depth), scope for tax harvesting (usually for non-discretionary) – realising losses to offset gains.

Alternative Investment Funds – AIFs are pooled vehicles set up as trusts, managed by investment managers who can be in the form of companies or LLPs under the SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012. The minimum commitment is Rs 1 crore, though employees may enter at Rs 25 lakh, and Accredited Investors can negotiate lower amounts. AIFs consist of three categories:

Choosing the right fit

Minimum investment (Ticket size): Start with mutual funds or SIFs if your investable amount is below Rs 50 lakh.

Liquidity horizon: Consider how soon you might need your money. For short-term goals or emergency funds, open-ended mutual funds or liquid PMS strategies are more appropriate. Products like AIFs, which may lock up your capital for several years, are better suited for long-term commitments.

Fee structure: Pay close attention to costs. Performance fees, which can be as high as 20%, may significantly impact your returns. Check that any performance fee is linked to a clear hurdle rate and that a permanent high-water mark is in place to protect your interests.

Reporting and transparency: Think about how often you want updates on your investments. Mutual funds typically provide daily NAV disclosures, SIFs report at least weekly, and PMS and AIFs provide periodic statements–often quarterly or as specified by the fund. Choose a product that matches your need for information and oversight. Professional Guidance: Taxation, estate planning and risk appetite differ for every individual. Consulting a qualified financial adviser can help you align investment products with your personal financial situation and long-term goals.

India's investment stack now let's capital graduate smoothly:

- **Rs 100–10 lakh:** Mutual funds for core compounding.
- **Rs 10 lakh–50 lakh:** SIFs for advanced but regulated strategies.
- **Rs 50 lakh–1 crore:** PMS for bespoke, transparent portfolios.
- **Rs 1 crore +:** AIFs for private-market and hedge-fund style exposure.

For many households, a combination of diversified mutual funds and, where appropriate, a single SIF can address most long-term financial goals. PMS and AIFs may be considered as portfolio size, investment horizon, and risk appetite increase and the need for more tailored or alternative strategies arises.

(The writer is Head of Passive Research, MOAMC)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Markets set for a slow & steady uphill trek

PM's 'productive' 4-day visit to Japan & China to help alleviate the mood

SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA

The equity market is likely to witness a gradual uptrend this week, aided by the GST rationalisation. The move is expected to stimulate consumer demand and support future corporate earnings, offering a strong tailwind alongside the upcoming festive season. However, gains could be capped by the impact of the recently imposed 50% US tariffs, which pose downside risks for export-oriented sectors.

On the geo-political front, sentiments remain positive as PM Modi concluded his four-day visit to Japan and China, terming the SCO summit "productive". Stronger trade alignment with Russia and China is expected to open multi-sector growth opportunities for India. Key macro data this week include Indian and US retail inflation, ECB interest rate decision and Japan's Q2 GDP.

There has been a broad-based reduction in GST rates wherein the key sectoral beneficiaries include automobiles, consumer durables, staples, retail (apparels and footwear), cement, hotels, insurance among others. In addition, the second order benefits are expected for banks/NBFCs, logistics and quick commerce.

Last week, Nifty 50 ended higher by 317 points at 24,741 (+1.3%), as stronger than expected Q1 GDP and approval of GST 2.0 reforms lifted market sentiments. The broader market indices outperformed, with Nifty Midcap100 and Nifty Smallcap100 up by 2.5% each. Amongst sectors, Nifty Metal was the top performer with gains of 5.9%, aided by China's plans to cut steel production between 2025-26. The Nifty Auto index rose 5.5% as the sector emerged as one of the biggest beneficiaries of GST rationalization. In contrast, Nifty IT declined by 1.5% due to concerns over weaker than expected U.S. jobs data.

India's real GDP growth came at 7.8% YoY in Q1FY26 (highest in five quarters) vs. 6.5% in 1QFY25. The upside surprise was driven by a sharp rebound in government spending, which grew 7.4% in the quarter compared to a contraction of 0.3% in the same quarter last year. Going ahead, India's GDP growth is projected to expand by around 6.4% in FY26, broadly in line with the RBI's forecast. A favourable monsoon is expected to support rural demand. High-frequency indicators such as strong PMIs (manufacturing and services) and robust GST collections already point to a healthy uptick in economic activity. With such a positive surprise in real GDP numbers, we believe that a rate cut is unlikely in FY26.

With ITC no longer available, the pass-through of the 0% GST on health and life insurances may not be complete. Also, even if the insurance companies do not pass on the entire cut, we still see a meaningful reduction in premiums for policyholders and prospective customers, which will help drive demand as affordability improves. We remain positive on the insurance space, with general insurance players likely to be key beneficiaries from the cut in GST rates on automobiles.

Overall, while external headwinds from global trade uncertainties and tariff hikes remain a key risk, the combination of a simplified GST framework, positive domestic macros, favourable monsoon outlook, and supportive geopolitical developments should underpin market momentum in the near term.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd)

FPIs withdraw Rs 12,257 crore in first week of Sep

NEW DELHI, PTI: Foreign investors pulled out Rs 12,257 crore ($1.4 billion) from Indian equities in the first week of September, weighed down by a stronger dollar, US tariff concerns, and persistent geopolitical tensions.

This came following a net outflow of Rs 34,990 crore in August and Rs 17,700 crore in July.

With this, the total outflow by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in equities reached Rs 1.43 lakh crore so far in 2025, data with the depositories showed.

In the coming week, FPI flows are expected to be driven by US Fed commentary, US labour market data, RBI rate cut expectations and its stance on rupee stability, Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst, Angel One, said.

"While near-term volatility may persist, India's structural growth story, policy reforms, such as GST rationalisation, and expectations of an earnings revival could bring FPIs back once global uncertainties ease," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment, said.

Market experts believe that a combination of global and domestic factors triggered the latest withdrawals. "Multiple factors contributed to this risk-off sentiment -- a stronger dollar, renewed US tariff threats, and continuing geopolitical tensions added to global uncertainty," Srivastava said. Domestically, slowing corporate earnings momentum and concerns over high valuations -- Indian equities continue to trade at a premium to other emerging markets -- prompted FPIs to book profits and reduce exposure, he added.

Mcap of 7 of 10 most-valued firms jumps Rs 1 lakh cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms jumped Rs 1,06,250.95 crore last week, with Bajaj Finance and Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainers, in line with an optimistic trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 901.11 points, or 1.12%, and the Nifty climbed 314.15 points, or 1.28%.

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and LIC were the winners, while TCS, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever face erosion from their market valuation last week.

The valuation of Bajaj Finance surged Rs 37,960.96 crore to Rs 5,83,451.27 crore.

Reliance Industries added Rs 23,343.51 crore to Rs 18,59,767.71 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 17,580.42 crore to Rs 14,78,444.32 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) climbed Rs 15,559.49 crore to Rs 5,54,607.42 crore.

State Bank of India's mcap rallied by Rs 4,246.09 crore to Rs 7,44,864.69 crore and that of Bharti Airtel edged higher by Rs 4,134.02 crore to Rs 10,81,347.25 crore.

ICICI Bank's valuation went up by Rs 3,426.46 crore to Rs 10,01,717.42 crore.

However, the market valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tanked by Rs 13,007.02 crore to Rs 11,02,955.89 crore.

BROKEN SPARKLE

US tariff brings the hammer down on already beleaguered diamond industry

SATISH JHA
SURAT, DHNS

The Surat diamond industry has been reeling under a series of crises in recent years. Just as it was recovering from the pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war disrupted supplies of rough diamonds after sanctions on Russian exports. Soon after, the Israel-Palestine conflict added to the uncertainty. The latest blow has come in the form of unprecedented tariffs imposed by the Donald Trump-led US administration.

Experts say that the tariff hike is reported to be hurting not just Surat's famed diamond industry but India's overall $32-billion gems and jewellery export market. According to a report by the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), India exported gems and jewellery worth $11.58 billion to the US in 2024, accounting for about 34% of its global exports.

The report stated that India exported cut and polished diamonds worth $7,972.16 million to the US in 2022–23, which fell to $5,601.24 million in 2023–24. Until now, the tariff applicable on these exports was zero. With the US being India's single largest market, the reciprocal tariff hike is expected to have a significant impact on the industry.

Standing at the lowest level of the value chain and its reliance on global players, both for sourcing raw materials and for sales of final products, the diamond workers and medium and small scale factories are going to be worst affected. The US accounts for 32% of total export followed by China, where also the demand has been slowing down. The situation has led the exporters to scramble for newer pastures. There is a buzz going on in the market that big firms or exporters can shift to countries where tariffs are lower

Surat's diamond cutting and polishing industry remains highly unorganised which makes it difficult to assess how it has affected the artisans. Experts say natural diamond units have laid off thousands of workers in recent years, many of whom were absorbed by lab-grown diamond firms but at 35–45% lower salaries. The latest blow is likely to hurt the industry further as companies may slash the artisans' salaries further.

"The jewellery sector across the world has been facing a slowdown for the past four years. During this period, our exports fell by over 40%, dropping from a record $42 billion to $24 billion annually. The industry had hoped for a recovery, but the new tariff is set to hurt more," said Dinesh Navadiya, chairman of Indian Diamond Institute, Surat.

Babubhai Dholiya, 70, has been in the diamond trade since his teenage years. Like lakhs of others in Surat, he began as a labourer, cutting and polishing rough diamonds. After nearly a decade, he set up his own factory, having learned the tricks of the trade. Though barely literate, he soon began travelling to countries like Belgium to procure batches of rough diamonds.

Diamond processing unit in Surat

"I had about 150 to 200 workers in my factory in the Varachha area. But everything changed in 2008 with the global slowdown. It hit me so hard that by 2010 I had to shut down my factory. Since then, I have only been trading. With my experience, I can say that what the industry is facing now is somewhat similar to 2008. I used to handle business worth around Rs 50 lakh a day until 2020, but after the pandemic my business dropped to about Rs 5 lakh a day," Dholiya told *DH* from his modest office in Mini Bazar, a bustling diamond trading hub in Varachha, home to the majority of Surat's diamantaires. The overall situation in the market remains of uncertainty and apprehension over how the tariff war is going to be played out in immediate future.

According to Bhavesh Tank, vice-president of the Diamond Workers' Union, uncertainty looms at the future of workers as factory owners may sack workers in big numbers. A former polisher himself, Tank lost his job three years ago and now runs a loan consultancy while advocating for workers' rights.

However, some also view the crisis as an opportunity to explore under-tapped markets in Europe and the Middle East. They argue that the industry's over-reliance on the United States, the world's largest market for polished diamonds, has made it vulnerable, and that the time has come to diversify exports.

Acknowledging the crisis Jayanti Savaliya, regional president of GJEPC, told *DH* that the imposition of tariff will create further trouble for the industry. He said that the crisis has also given the Indian traders an opportunity to start exploring in other markets where exports have been dismal such as European and Middle East countries. He added that "there is a crisis and it is going to impact every stakeholder significantly in the days to come but this is also a time to think in some positive direction and bring changes."

Japan PM Ishiba to resign after election losses

Says after US tariff talks, it's time to make way for successor

TOKYO, AP

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba during a news conference in Tokyo on Sunday. PTI

Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba announced on Sunday that he will resign following growing calls from within his party to take responsibility for a historic defeat in July's parliamentary election.

Ishiba, who took office in October, said he was stepping down as prime minister and as the head of his conservative Liberal Democratic Party.

Ishiba, a 68-year-old moderate centrist, had resisted demands from opponents further to the right within his own party to resign. He argued that he wanted to avoid a political vacuum at a time when Japan faces key domestic and international challenges, including US tariffs, rising prices and growing tensions in the Asia-Pacific.

Ishiba explained at a news conference Sunday night as he announced his resignation plans that he had intended for some time to take responsibility for his party's summer election loss, but was first determined to make progress in tariff negotiations with the United States. He described it as matter of the national interest.

"Who would seriously negotiate with a government whose leader says he is stepping down?" Ishiba said.

He said the moment had arrived with an order by US President Donald Trump on Friday to lower tariffs on Japanese cars and other products to 15 per cent from a previously imposed 25 per cent rate.

"Having reached a milestone in the US tariff negotiations, I decided now is the time to make way for a successor," Ishiba said.

Pressure from the party

The resignation came one day before his party was to decide whether to hold an early leadership election, which would have amounted to a virtual no-confidence motion against him if approved.

He said he made the "painful decision to resign" to avert that step because "it would cause a critical division within the party, and that is absolutely not my intention."

Ishiba said he would instead start a process to hold a party leadership vote to choose his replacement, which is expected to be held in October. He is to remain as prime minister until a new party leader is elected.

India lobbyist Jason Miller meets Trump amid tariff row

Though purpose of meeting is not yet known

WASHINGTON, PTI

Political lobbyist Jason Miller, whose lobbying was hired by India, met US President Donald Trump and a few officials of his administration, against the backdrop of tensions in ties between the two countries over Washington's policy on trade and tariffs.

Miller heads SHW Partners LLC that was hired by the Indian embassy in April reportedly for $ 1.8 million for a year.

Miller did not mention the purpose of his meeting with Trump and other officials, but posted several photos including one with Trump on social media.

"Fantastic week in Washington with so many friends being in town, topped off of course by having the opportunity to stop in and see our President in-action! Keep up the great work, @POTUS @realDonaldTrump!," he posted.

'More secondary sanctions on nations buying Russian oil'

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Sunday said that the Russian economy will "collapse" if Washington and the European Union impose more secondary sanctions on countries that buy crude oil from Moscow, reports PTI. Bessent, in an interview, said that President Donald Trump and Vice President J D Vance had a very productive call with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, who followed up with a call with him on Friday and they discussed what the US and EU could do to put more pressure on Russia.

The relations between New Delhi and Washington are on a major downturn after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50 per cent including a 25 per cent additional duties for India's purchase of Russian crude oil. India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

Russia, India & China aware of common interests: Lavrov

MOSCOW, PTI: Russia, India and China are aware of their common interests in several sectors and there is an overt trend to develop mutual partnership, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday.

Lavrov was referring to the recent bonhomie displayed by the leaders of the three countries at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin last week.

Triple handshake and huddle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the SCO summit hogged global headlines.

It even prompted US President Donald Trump, in a social media post, to lament the loss of India and Russia to "deepest and darkest" China.

In rare hit, drone fired by Yemen strikes Israel's airport

REUTERS

Smoke and flames rise while a residential building collapses after an Israeli air strike, in Gaza City, on Sunday. REUTERS

Israel's Ramon Airport near the southern city of Eilat resumed operations after being briefly shut on Sunday when a drone launched from Yemen struck the arrivals hall, Israel's Airports Authority said.

Two people were injured by shrapnel, the national ambulance service said.

"Following the completion of all safety and security checks, compliance with international civil aviation standards, and receipt of final approval from the Air Force – Ramon Airport has now been reopened for full operations, for both departures and arrivals," the authority said in a statement.

"The first flight from Ramon to Ben Gurion Airport is expected to depart shortly."

Takeoffs and landings at the airport were halted for around two hours as the Israeli military said it was investigating the crash of a drone that was launched from Yemen and fell in the area of the airport. The Airports Authority said it was in the arrivals hall. Israel's national ambulance service Magen David Adom said a 63-year-old man and a 52-year-old woman were injured by shrapnel and were being evacuated to receive medical treatment.

The airport located near Red Sea resort city of Eilat, mostly handles domestic flights.

Trump issues 'last warning' to Hamas

US President Donald Trump on Sunday issued what he called his "last warning" to Hamas, urging the Palestinian militant group to accept a deal to release hostages from Gaza, reports Reuters. "The Israelis have accepted my Terms. It is time for Hamas to accept as well," Trump said in a post his Truth Social platform. "I have warned Hamas about the consequences of not accepting. This is my last warning, there will not be another one!"

REAL-LIFE CONNECTIONS

AI-powered meet-up apps fight loneliness

SAN FRANCISCO, AFP

On a summer evening in San Francisco, JT Mason went to dinner with five complete strangers, confident he would have a good time thanks to careful guest selection by a new type of app for meeting people.

The platform, called 222, promises something different than your typical dating app.

"I'm not getting the image that they want people to see. I'm getting the actual human being," said the 25-year-old paramedic.

Before the evening, Mason completed a lengthy questionnaire covering his values, interests, drug tolerance, character traits, and other personal criteria.

After dinner, he joined other app users at a private art deco bar, all hoping to meet potential friends or perhaps find something more. Once connections are made, everyone has the opportunity to tell the app which people they'd like to see again -- or not -- and explain why.

According to 222, the app's artificial intelligence becomes particularly effective at matching users after they participate in several events, from dinners to yoga sessions to improv classes.

"As far as AI getting to the point of understanding human chemistry, I think they're pretty far off," Mason observed, but said he thinks it can serve as "the first step in getting us to the table to try to create that connection."

Predicting compatibility between strangers using AI has become the obsession of Keyan Kazemian and his co-founders at 222, which now operates in several major cities from London to Los Angeles.

Over 890 held at pro-Palestine protest in UK

LONDON, PTI

The Metropolitan Police on Sunday condemned the "intolerable" abuse suffered by officers who were "kicked and spat on" as they made over 890 arrests at a protest here against the banning of Palestine Action as a terror group.

Hundreds gathered at Parliament Square over the course of the weekend to oppose the group's proscription by the UK government, holding placards such as "I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action" in protest over the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Police had, in August, arrested a large number of people during a similar protest defying the ban on the same organisation. A total of 857 individuals were arrested in Parliament Square in London under the UK Terrorism Act 2000 over alleged offences, the Met Police said. Other arrests were made for other offences, including on suspicion of assaulting officers.

"In carrying out their duties, our officers have been punched, kicked, spat on and had objects thrown at them by protesters," said Met Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Claire Smart, who led the policing operation.

"It is intolerable that those whose job it is to enforce the law and keep people safe – in this case arresting individuals committing offences under the Terrorism Act – should be subject to this level of abuse...

"The tactics deployed by supporters of Palestine Action in their attempt to overwhelm the justice system, as well as the level of violence seen in the crowd, required significant resources which took officers out of neighbourhoods to the detriment of the Londoners who rely on them," she said.

On Saturday, the Met Police said it had deployed more than 2,500 officers to manage protests across the UK capital. The majority of protests, including the Palestine Coalition march, passed with very few arrests.

However, the protest organised by the Defend Our Juries organisation in support of the proscribed terrorist organisation Palestine Action saw the most arrests.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A person holds up an artwork as Pope Leo XIV leads a Holy Mass for the canonisation of Carlo Acutis – a British-born Italian teenager set to become the first millennial Catholic saint – and Pier Giorgio Frassati, at St Peter's Square in the Vatican on Sunday. Acutis died of leukaemia in 2006 at the age of 15. REUTERS

Red Sea cable snag hits internet in Asia and West Asia

Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access Sunday in parts of Asia including India, and West East, experts said, though it wasn't immediately clear what caused the incident, reports AP from Dubai.

There has been concern about the cables being targeted in a Red Sea campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels, which the rebels describe as an effort to pressure Israel to end its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But the Houthis have denied attacking the lines in the past. NetBlocks, which monitors internet access, said "a series of subsea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded internet connectivity in multiple countries," which it said included India and Pakistan.

It blamed "failures affecting the SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia."

The South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 cable is run by Tata Communications, part of the Indian conglomerate.

Over 300 S Koreans set for release

Seoul said on Sunday that negotiations with the United States to secure the release of South Korean workers detained in a raid by US immigration officials have been "concluded" and they would soon be freed and flown home, reports AFP from Seoul.

It follows the arrest of more than 300 South Korean workers at a Hyundai-LG battery plant being built in the southern state of Georgia on Thursday.

The operation, carried out in the town of Ellabell, was the largest single site raid implemented so far under US President Donald Trump's nationwide anti-migrant drive, catching Seoul officials off guard. "As a result of the swift and united response... negotiations for the release of the detained workers have been concluded," Kang Hoon-sik, chief of staff to President Lee Jae Myung, said.

A full moon is seen during a "Blood Moon" total lunar eclipse in Dresden, Germany, on Sunday. REUTERS

Nepal-China military drill begins

The fifth edition of Sagarmatha Friendship, a joint military exercise between Nepal Army and the Peoples Liberation Army of China kicked off in Kathmandu on Sunday, reports PTI from Kathmandu.

There will be knowledge exchanged between the two armies during the 10-day long joint military exercise on matters related to disaster management, United Nations Peace Mission and counter-terrorism among others, a press release by Nepal Army said.

The joint military exercise is being organised in Nepal and China on rotation basis since 2017.

SPORT

Ronaldo fires Portugal to emotional win

PARIS, AFP

Cristiano Ronaldo during Portugal's win over Armenia. REUTERS

Cristiano Ronaldo helped an emotional Portugal enjoy a perfect start to their World Cup qualifying campaign as Thomas Tuchel's uninspiring England remained unbeaten on Saturday.

Portugal, playing for the first time since the death of their Liverpool forward Diogo Jota, along with his brother Andre Silva in a car accident, took an impressive first step to the finals next year, sweeping aside Armenia 5-0 in Yerevan.

Both teams observed one minute's silence before kick-off at the Vazgen Sargsyan Republican Stadium in tribute to Jota and his brother, who were killed in a crash in northern Spain on July 3, 11 days after Jota had married Rute Cardoso, the mother of his three children.

"We're all very happy because it shows he's (Jota) with us, that he was there, and that moment, Ronaldo's goal, was made possible. He'll always be with us, as was clear today," said the defender.

England's winning spree

England extended their unbeaten run in Group K to four matches but hardly set the world alight in defeating modest Andorra 2-0 at Villa Park in Birmingham.

Christian Garcia's first-half own-goal was followed by Declan Rice's header to keep Tuchel's team firmly on course for the finals.

Shastri bats for aggressive approach

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ravi Shastri

India appear to be where they want to be with the T20 World Cup in about eight months time. They look confident, balanced and seem to have the right mix for success. The recent record speaks for it: 17 wins in the last 20 games since June 2024.

The side has the batting depth and the high-risk-high-reward approach (scoring 9.9 runs per over on an average in the last 15 months) under Gautam Gambhir has worked well.

As for India's batting methodology, former India head coach Ravi Shastri was completely on board with the style of play and didn't expect them to change on how they would go about their business in the upcoming Asia Cup.

"India will continue to play in the same attacking manner, unless of course, the pitches are slow. As the tournament progresses, the pitches will tire and getting those big scores might not be easy. They will then have to adapt, but aggression remains the core approach," Shastri said in an interaction arranged by Sony Sports Network.

Shubman Gill's inclusion and elevation as the vice-captain signals a change in the opening combination. While he is no "see ball, hit ball" kind of batter, his contributions are effective.

Gill made 650 runs, striking at 155.87 as an opener in IPL 2025 and, in all likelihood, will bat at the top with Abhishek Sharma. It also paves for crowning Gill as India's all-format captain is also starting to take shape.

"In the long run, if a player can cement his place in all three formats and become a vital cog in the side, then by all means he should play all. We've seen players like Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni excel across formats. If someone is good enough, there's nothing stopping them from doing the same."

And it seems evident that Sanju Samson will be on top of the demotion list, who opened in the absence of Gill. The Kerala batter has been included largely as a top three batter who can keep, but it is Jitesh Sharma who is more likely to make the final XI, with India's top four firmly set.

Shastri felt Samson was best suited to bat at the top and doesn't have the finishing arrow in his quiver.

"Samson has been consistent at the top with big runs and hundreds. He's dangerous in the top three. There's no need to change his role," he said.

The searing heat, slow and dry Dubai surfaces are expected to suit spin and India, Shastri said, have all bases covered and can adapt with respect to the conditions.

"Spinners will be in big demand in Dubai. You need both finger-spin and wrist-spin. India has that luxury, and they'll all come into play depending on conditions. Whether it is two or three, depends on the conditions, but they will be in demand."

If anyone does, Gambhir knows a T20 tournament can be won with a shallow bowling arsenal, but it will take the quality of their batting to overshadow their opponents. That is something they have done so far in 17 of their last 20 matches.

(Sony Sports Network is the official broadcaster of Asia Cup 2025. Fans can watch live coverage from 9th September, 7pm onwards on Sony Sports Ten 1 and Ten 5 channels.)

Verstappen ends McLaren's streak

MONZA (ITALY), AFP

Max Verstappen. AFP

Max Verstappen won the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday, the reigning world champion slowing McLaren's dominance of Formula One with a phenomenal display from pole in Monza.

Red Bull's Verstappen held off Lando Norris and championship leader Oscar Piastri after setting the fastest lap in F1 history when taking top spot on the grid on Saturday.

The Dutchman has little chance of securing a fifth straight drivers' title as he still trails Piastri by 94 points with the Australian finishing third.

Piastri leads the drivers' standings by 31 points from Norris, who finished second, as the top five positions ended up staying as they were on the starting grid of a rapid race.

Sunday's win was just Verstappen's third of a season dominated by a McLaren car, which has blown away the competition by winning all but four GPs.

Charles Leclerc couldn't take a podium spot for the massed ranks of Ferrari fans in the stands, the Monegasque finishing fourth.

Leclerc's team-mate Lewis Hamilton gave it his best shot after a five-place grid penalty had him bumped back to 10th at the start, but the seven-time F1 champion couldn't push past his former Mercedes teammate George Russel and was left with another underwhelming result.

TENNIS US OPEN

Sabalenka's New York rule continues

Belarusian sweeps aside Anisimova to retain crown

NEW YORK, AFP

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka overpowered Amanda Anisimova to defend her US Open crown on Saturday, defeating her American rival in straight sets to clinch the fourth Grand Slam title of her career.

Sabalenka ruthlessly attacked Anisimova's shaky service game to complete a 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium which cements her status at the pinnacle of women's tennis.

The 27-year-old had gone into Saturday's final knowing it was her last chance to grab a Grand Slam crown in 2025 after agonising losses in the Australian and French Open finals.

Sabalenka duly atoned for those losses to end Anisimova's hopes of a remarkable redemption just two months after her traumatic 6-0, 6-0 thrashing by Iga Swiatek at Wimbledon.

Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka poses with the women's singles title after beating United States' Amanda Anisimova at the US Open on Saturday. AFP

"It's crazy, all those tough lessons were worth it for this one," said Sabalenka afterwards. "I'm speechless right now."

Anisimova had won six of nine previous encounters against Sabalenka, a run which included a victory in the semi-finals at Wimbledon.

But a determined Sabalenka, playing in the seventh Grand Slam title game of her career, brought all her experience to bear as she slammed the door on Anisimova's dream of a maiden Grand Slam title.

"Losing in two finals in a row is great but it's also super hard," Anisimova said. "I think I didn't fight hard enough for my dreams today."

Sabalenka clinched the win after once again demonstrating her incredible prowess in tiebreaks -- winning her 19th consecutive breaker 7/3 to complete victory in one hour and 34 minutes. Anisimova meanwhile was left ruing her inability to make the most of break points at key moments, in sharp contrast to Sabalenka, who converted five of her six chances.

Granollers, Zeballos win

Marcelo Granollers and Horacio Zeballos saved three championship points against all-British pair Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski on Saturday to win their first US Open men's doubles title.

Salisbury and Skupski were a point away from winning with their opponents serving down 5-4 down in the third set but Granollers and Zeballos fought back to prevail 3-6, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5.

Lakshya punches into last 16

LIVERPOOL, PTI

India's Lakshya Chahar **(in pic)** came up with a clinical performance to defeat former Asian Championships gold medallist, Jordan's Hussein Iashaish, to advance to round of 16 in men's 80kg category at the World Boxing Championships here on Sunday.

Lakshya began the bout against the 30-year-old Rio Olympics quarterfinalist aggressively but the experienced Jordanian managed to close the gap in the second round.

However, the Indian, who competed in the Hangzhou Asian Games, stepped up in the third and decisive round to complete a dominant 5-0 win.

Pawan Bartwal's campaign in the men's 55kg event came to an end when he went down 0-5 against Mirzakhalilov Mirazizbek of Uzbekistan.

India has fielded a 20-member contingent at the inaugural World Championships being held under the aegis of the World Boxing, a recently formed international governing body for the sport.

At the time of reporting, three more boxers were to be be in action in the evening session on Sunday.

Time And Tide wins feature

PUNE RESULTS

Time And Tide, from the stables of Nirad Karanjawala and ridden by Sandesh, won the Akkasaheb Maharaj Trophy, the feature event of the Pune races on Sunday.

1. World's Oldest Barbershop Trophy - 1200M: Moonlight Kiss (Jiyaji Bhosale) Sandesh 1; Empower (TS Jodha) 2; The Athabasca (Ajinkya) 3; She's A Teaser (Bhawani Singh) 4; Wb: 6-1/4, 2-3/4, 3/4L. T: 1:09.16. TB: N Lagad. Fav: The Athabasca.

2. Lemon Tree Hotels Trophy -2000M: Odysseus (SM Ruia) Neeraj Rawal 1; Regina Memorabilis (G Vivek) 2; Pride's Prince (Ajinkya) 3; Exuma (NS Parmar) 4; Wb: Nk, 5-1/4, 8-1/2L. T: 2:05.80. TB: Pesi Shroff. Fav: Odysseus.

3. Dinkoo N Chenoy Salver (Div II) - 1200M: Eagle Eye (Arun Kumar) Sai Kiran 1; Allez L Etoile (C Umesh) 2; Running Away (Haridas Gore) 3; Sakana (A Prakash) 4; Not Run: Ensky. Wb: 4-1/2, 4-1/4, 4L. T: 1:09.34. TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Eagle Eye.

4. Amjad Khan Trophy - 1400M: Spanish Eyes (Nozer Panthaky) Sandesh 1; Axlord (TS Jodha) 2; Vincero (Aditya Waydande) 3; Chardikala (G Vivek) 4; Wb: Shd, 3/4, 1-1/2L. T: 1:26.32. TB: D Todywalla. Fav: Spanish Eyes.

5. Dinkoo N Chenoy Salver (Div-I) - 1200M: Seneca (Haider Soomer) Sandesh 1; El Moran (C Umesh) 2; Aeon Flux (Nazil) 3; Trail Blazer (N Bhosale) 4; Wb: 1/2, 4-1/4, 2-1/4L,. T: 1:10.32. TB: Nirad Karanjawala. Fav: El Moran.

6. Akkasaheb Maharaj Trophy - 1200M: Time And Tide (Vikram Bachawat) Sandesh 1; Magileto (G Vivek) 2; Market King (NS Parmar) 3; Dream Seller (C Umesh) 4; Wb: Shd, 1-1/2L, Lnk. T: 1:08.84 TB: Niraj Karanjawala. Fav: Time And Tide.

7. Rotary District 3131 September Handicap - 1600M: Little John (Mukul Sonawala) Haridas Gore 1; Phatasmique (C Umesh) 2; Caradoc (Aditya Waydande) 3; Juracan (Ajinkya) 4; Wb: 2, Hd, 1-3/4L. T: 1:41.59. TB: D Todywalla. Fav: Enforcer.

8. Spearhead Plate - 1600M: Speak The Breed (Sudendu Shah) Aditya Waydande 1; Daianne (Bhawani Singh) 2; Highground (SG Prasad) 3; Yuletide (A Prakash) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 2-3/4, 3L. T: 1:42.84. TB: Imtiaz Sait. Fav: Goldiva.

Bengaluru dividends:

I race: Rs 22w; 11, 16, 11p; Fc: Rs 140; Q: Rs 83; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 52; Tri: Rs 407 & 94; Ex: Rs 1,475 & 1,398.

II race: Rs 21w; Rs 13, 12p; Fc: Rs 34; Q: Rs 18; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 121 & 100; Ex: Rs 200 & 55.

III race: Rs 13w; 10, 10, 52p; Fc: Rs 18; Q: Rs 16; Shp: Rs 17; Thp: Rs 127; Tri: Rs 144 & 99; Ex: Rs 353 & 148.

IV race: Rs 24w; 12, 18, 19p; Fc: Rs 162; Q: Rs 124; Shp: Rs 56; Thp: Rs 48; Tri: Rs 1,000 & 262; Ex: Rs 2,036 & 698.

V race: Rs 20w; 13,, 10, 18p; Fc: Rs 51; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 113 & 126; Ex: Rs 196 & 76.

VI race: Rs 15w; 13, 27p; Fc: Rs 39; Q: Rs 34; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 249 & 98; Ex: Rs 1,027 & 292.

VII race: Rs 407w; 87, 29, 19p; Fc: Rs 15,951; Q: Rs 2,229; Shp: Rs 65; Thp: Rs 48; Tri: Rs 10,542 & 4,518; Ex: Rs 1,06,362 (c/o).

VIII race: Rs 70w; 19, 25, 40p; Fc: Rs 826; Q: Rs 317; Shp: Rs 63; Thp: Rs 91; Tri: Rs 9,655 & 5,172; Ex: Rs 50,186 & 7,821.

Jackpot: Rs 29,746 (23). **Runner-up:**Rs 1,833 (160). **I treble:** Rs 1,503 (7). **II treble:** Rs 2,974 (6).

Prokofiev for feature

HYDERABAD SELECTIONS

Prokofiev, from the stables of Prasanna Kumar and to be ridden by Antony Raj, is fancied to win the Y Shankar Rao Memorial Deccan Colts Trial Championship Stakes, the feature event of the Hyderabad races run over a mile at the races on Monday.

The first race starts at 12:25 pm.

1. Medak Plate - 1200M: Roxxane 1, Nyanza 2, Fox Worth 3.

2. Chaitanya Chakram Plate - 1400M: La Quinta 1, Tootsie Darling 2, Lake Michigan 3.

3. Hussain Sagar Cup (Div I) - 1400M: Blue Pantheress 1, Bold Beauty 2, Nkalanzinzi 3.

4. Hussain Sagar Cup (Div II) - 1400M: Take A Breath 1, Politics 2, Silver Arrow 3.

5. Monsoon Cup - 1400M: Walking Thunder 1, Miss Smiley Angel 2, Petaluma 3.

6. A Krishnaswamy Memorial Cup - 1200M: Ayushman 1, Pacific Heights 2, Glorious Power 3.

7. Y Shankar Rao Memorial Deccan Colts Trial Championship Stakes - 1600M: Prokofiev 1, Red Bishop 2, Mindful 3.

8. Chief Minister's Cup - 1600M: Hugh Capet 1, Nonpariel 2, Livermore 3.

9. Makalu Plate - 1200M: Ilene 1, Always Special 2, Noorian 3.

Day's best: Waking Thunder. **I jackpot:** 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. **II jackpot:** 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9. **I treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 4, 5 & 6. **III treble:** 7, 8 & 9.

England post record ODI win over SA

SOUTHAMPTON, AFP

South Africa suffered the heaviest loss in ODI history as England dismissed the tourists for just 72 in a 342-run victory inspired by Jofra Archer's blistering bowling and Jacob Bethell's **(in pic)** maiden hundred on Sunday.

Chasing 415 to complete a clean-sweep of the three-match series, the Proteas surrendered in humiliating fashion in 20.5 ignominious overs in Southampton.

It was the biggest winning margin in the history of the ODI format when batting first, surpassing India's 317-run victory against Sri Lanka in 2023.

South Africa narrowly avoided beating their lowest ODI total of 69 against Australia in 1993.

England's previous biggest margin of victory was a 242-run success against Australia at Trent Bridge in 2018.

After Bethell smashed 110 from just 82 balls and Joe Root reached a typically efficient 100, Archer set about demolishing the South Africans.

England's Jacob Bethell (right) celebrates reaching his century with Joe Root, who too struck a ton. AFP

The pace bowler finished with impressive figures of 4-18 in nine overs as he removed four of South Africa's top five batsmen.

Brief scores: England: 414/5 in 50 overs (Jamie Smith 62, Ben Duckett 31, Joe Root 100, Jacob Bethell 110, Jos Buttler 62,; Corbin Bosch 2-79, Keshav Maharaj 2-61) bt South Africa: 72 all out in 20.5 overs (Jofra Archer 4-18, Brydon Carse 2-33, Adil Rashid 3-13). **Result**: England won by 342 runs. **Series**: SA won the series 2-1. **PoM**: Jofra Archer. **PoS**: Joe Root

FIVE BIGGEST ODI WINS BY RUNS

- 342 by Eng vs SA (target: 415), Sept 7, 2025
- 317 by India vs SL (target: 391), Jan 15, 2023
- 309 by Aus vs Holland (target: 400), Oct 25, 2023
- 304 by Zim vs USA (target: 409), Jun 26, 2023
- 302 by India vs SL (target: 358), Nov 2, 2023

Bengaluru racer Savion leads Karnataka's charge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's Savion Sabu **(in pic)** produced a stunning ride to win Race 2 of the Pro-Stock 200cc Open at the third round of the MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the Madras International Circuit in Chennai on Sunday.

Starting 11th on the grid after qualifying issues and a 9th-place finish in Race 1, the Mad Rabbit Racing rider sliced through the field to hand Karnataka its biggest win of the weekend.

His triumph capped off a strong outing for riders from Bengaluru and Tumakuru, who returned with multiple podium finishes. Bengaluru's Joshua A took second place in the Petronas TVS One-Make Rookie class (Apache RTR 200), while Tumakuru's Tejash BA claimed third place in the India Talent Cup (CB 300F). Another Bengalurean, Chiranth Vishwanath, finished runner-up in the TVS Electric RTE race, and Jagadeesh Nagaraj picked up second spot as well in the Stock 301-400cc Novice. The state tally was further boosted by AS James of Bengaluru, who clinched bronze in the Expert (Apache RR 310) category.

Meanwhile, Md Samrul Zubair scored his second win in four races.

IOC prez Coventry sets up panels

LAUSANNE, AFP: Kirsty Coventry, the new International Olympic Committee (IOC) president, is following up on her promise "to protect the female category" by setting up a working group on women's sport.

The group was one of four panels announced to discuss the evolution of the Olympic programme, the future of the Youth Olympic Games, and the organisation's commercial partnerships and marketing. While the members of those three panels were named, those in the "The Protection of the Female Category" group were withheld.

Among the three panels whose members were made public, the Olympic Programme has the starriest cast.

Pranavi makes cut, Avani & Tvesa miss out

HOUSTON, PTI

India's Pranavi Urs got off to a flying start with four birdies in five holes on way to a solid 3-under 69 in the second round to make the cut at tied 26th place at the Houston Championship here. Pranavi has so far had rounds of 72 and 69. Avani Prashanth (73-73) and Tvesa Malik (73-77) missed the cut, which fell at even par and 61 players made the cut at the Golfcrest Country Club. Spain's Carlota Ciganda fired a round of 64 (-8) on day two to hold a one-shot lead heading into the final day of the individual competition. The eight-time LET winner began her round with a birdie on 10 before back-to-back birdies on 13 and 14.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited

(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

No.BESCOM/D(F)/DGM(RA)/BC-19/F-1001/ Dated:08.09.2025

NOTIFICATION

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION, No.16, C-1, MILLERS TANK BED AREA, VASANTHANAGAR, BENGALURU– 560 052

IN THE MATTER OF:

Review Petition RP08/2025 before the Hon'ble Commission for tariff modification with respect to Irrigation Pump sets, Commercial and Industrial tariff categories.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM),
K R Circle, Bengaluru-560 001 & all other ESCOMs ..... PETITIONER

N O T I C E

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) along with other ESCOMs, has filed a Review Petition RP08/2025 before the Hon'ble Commission for tariff modification with respect to Irrigation Pump sets, Commercial and Industrial tariff categories.

The details of tariff modifications are as under:

The Government of Karnataka, in its Budget for FY 2025-26 which was announced on 07.03.2025, had allocated Rs. 16,021 Crores as subsidy for IP Sets.

The Hon'ble Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission have passed the Tariff Order-2025 on 27.03.2025 to be effective for FY 2025-26. In the Tariff Order, the tariff fixed for energy consumption for IP set is Rs. 8.30 per unit as against the previous year's per unit rate of Rs. 6.81, resulting in the total subsidy requirement for all ESCOMs towards the IP set category Rs. 20,640 Crores for approved sales. This resulted in a shortfall of subsidy as compared to the budgetary allocation of the GoK.

Every year as a policy, the GoK is announcing the subsidy to provide towards agriculture consumers. For FY 25-26, the GoK has announced Rs. 16,021 Crores as IP Subsidy in the State Budget. The State budget provisions are incorporated initially in the Finance Bill and thereafter in the Act. While determining the tariff and announcing the same, this Hon'ble Commission appears not to have taken into account the State Budget into consideration. As a consequence of not considering the budgetary allocations to the agriculture consumers, the tariff for the agricultural consumers has been fixed much above the proposals made by the petitioners.

The tariff for the LT-4(a) category, has witnessed a quantum jump which have to be borne by the Government (or Farmers - in the absence of sufficient subsidy from the Government). The said drastic increase in the tariff for IP sets calls for review of the Tariff Order 2025. If Commissions Tariff Order is implemented for LT-4(a) category, ESCOMs cannot meet this shortfall in revenue as the same is not provided in the budget. Petitioners can neither recover the shortfall either from the Government or from the Consumers. Therefore, the petition RP-08/2025 was filed for modification/amendment of Tariff Order 2025.

The Tariff Order 2024 provided for cross subsidization of LT4a category at 24.67% wrt to Average Cost of Supply. The Tariff Order 2025 provides for cross subsidization of 6.53%, 3.82% for FY-26 and FY-27 respectively. For FY-28, Hon'ble Commission has aimed at eliminating cross subsidization of LT4a category completely.

Further, the recent Tariff Order has introduced changes to various categories of installations. Notably, certain government installations tariff rates have not been altered, while others have been affected. The following categories have been retained at the old tariff rates:

LT6: Water supply
LT6: Street light
LT6: EV installations
HT1: Water supply installations
HT6: Irrigational and Agricultural farms
HT7: Government Lift irrigation

These categories, being government installations, have been retained with the existing tariff of Tariff Order 2024. Though both LT4a and the above government installations are cross subsidized by commercial and industrial category of consumers, only LT4a tariff has been increased drastically to reduce the cross subsidization.

If Commission's tariff order is implemented for LT-4(a) category, ESCOMs cannot meet this shortfall in revenue as the same is not provided in the budget. Petitioners can neither recover the shortfall either from the Government nor from the Consumers. Therefore, the ESCOMs have filed petition for modification/ amendment on the following grounds.

1. Sec. 64(6) of the Electricity Act, 2003 reads as under

A tariff order shall, unless amended or revoked, continue to be in force for such period as may be specified in the tariff order.

As per the above provision of the Act, Commission is empowered to amend or modify for the period of the present tariff order.

2. Regulation 8 of the KERC (Conduct and Proceedings) Regulation 2000 which read as under

(1) The Commission may, either on its own motion or on an application made by any interested or affected party, within 90 days of the making or issuing of any decision, direction, order, notice or other document or the taking of any action in pursuance of these Regulations, review, revoke, revise, modify, amend, alter or otherwise change such decision, direction, order, notice or other document issued or action taken by the Commission or any of its Officers.

(2) An application under sub-regulation (1) shall be filed in the same manner as a Petition under Chapter-II of these Regulations.

As per the above regulation this commission is empowered to review, revise, modify, amend, the tariff order dated 27.03.2025 and reduce the tariff of LT-4(a) category duly taking note of the subsidy GoK is providing towards this category.

3. Under Sec. 94(1)(F), Commission is empowered to review its decision as contemplated under the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 for not considering the budgetary proposal made by the State under the Karnataka Act 21 of 2025 while fixing the tariff for LT-4(a) category.

4. Sec. 175 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provide as follows

The provisions of this Act are in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

The ESCOMs had requested the Government of Karnataka to allocate additional budgetary support towards subsidizing the LT- 4A agricultural installations. During the meeting at the government level it was observed that the retail tariff rates of commercial and industrial installations have been decreased and the tariff rates of IP sets have been increased in the Tariff Order 2025. Further, it was also observed that there is a drastic decrease in the cross subsidization of the agricultural consumer and also elimination of cross subsidization in FY-28, In order to achieve revenue neutrality, the tariff of industrial and commercial categories is sought to be enhanced. To retain high revenue consumers with ESCOMs, the government of Karnataka has announced an additional grant of Rs. 2362.47 crores to provide subsidized power to irrigation pump sets with a capacity below 10HP. Wherefore, the Government of Karnataka stated that it would additionally grant Rs. 2,362.47 crores towards providing subsidized power to LT-4A consumers.

ESCOMs have proposed to fill up the financial gap arising out of reduction in LT-4a tariff through the following measures:

i. The present IP set tariff may be reduced from Rs. 8.30 per unit to Rs.7.35 per unit so that the state may provide additional subsidy without undue strain on the other revenue requirements of the state. The reduction in LT-4(a) tariff to Rs.7.35 will result in a shortfall of Rs. 2362.47 Crores as against the tariffs considered in the Tariff order under review.

ii. Increase the tariff of commercial and industrial installations proportionally as per the table below which will increase the revenue to the extent of Rs. 1,214.12 crores.

iii. Consider the additional revenue from miscellaneous sources in comparison to previous year as per Tariff Order, viz interest on arrears, cross subsidy surcharge, FPPCA, wheeling charges, etc. to the extent of Rs. 1148.35.

Hence, the revision in tariff is required. BESCOM and other ESCOMs plans to recover in FY-26 from the proposed revision of Tariff.

The tariff modification proposed is as under:

Categories	Tariff Order- 2024		Tariff Order-2025		Tariff to be revised (option-2)		Increase/decrease in Revenue if option 2 is considered against TO 2025
	FC in Rs.	EC in Rs./unit	FC in Rs.	EC in Rs./unit	FC in Rs.	EC in Rs./unit	Amt. in Crores
LT-4 (a) IP<10 HP		**6.81**		**8.30**		**7.35**	**-2,362.47**
LT-3(a) Commercial	210/220	8.00	215	7.00	235.00	7.10	207.21
LT-5 Industry	140/190	6.10	150	4.50	165.00	5.20	303.20
HT-2(a): Industry	340	6.90	345	6.60	365.00	6.70	262.85
HT-2(b): Commercial	365	8.00	370	5.95	390.00	6.90	440.86
Total of C&I							**1,214.12**
Additional Miscellaneous Revenue							**1148.35**

From the above table it can be seen that if LT-4(a) tariff is reduced to Rs.7.35 per unit, it will lead to decrease in the revenue of ESCOMs to the extent of Rs. 2,362.47 Crores, which deficit is proposed to be made good by the increase in tariff of Commercial and industrial customers as indicated above to the extent of Rs. 1214.12 Crores and by considering additional Miscellaneous revenue to the extent of Rs. 1148.35 Crores. It is critical to note that, despite the above proposed revisions, the tariff of industrial and commercial customers substantially stands reduced from Tariff Order 2024.

1. Application filed before Commission is **available at BESCOM and other ESCOM's website**
2. **Further, hard copy of the petition is available at Director(Finance), Second Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate office, BESCOM, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560 001**
3. Pursuant to KERC directions in the review petition RP-08/2025, it is hereby notified that the persons who are interested in filing their objections to the above petition may file the same **with the Receiving Officer, O/o the Secretary, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, No.16, C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, VasanthaNagar, Bengaluru-560 052,** along with the documents on which they want to rely upon, in three sets, duly supported by an affidavit within thirty days from the date of first publication of this Notification and also indicate whether they want to be heard in person. **A copy of the objection may be marked to Director (Finance), Second Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate office, BESCOM, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560 001 for furnishing replies to the objections.**

For Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
Sd/-
Director (Finance),
K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912 | Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

From left: Indian team of Aman Saini, Rishabh Yadav, Prathamesh Fuge defeated France in the final of the men's compound team at the World Archery C'pionships on Sunday. X

Indian compound archers strike gold at Worlds

GWANGJU (SOUTH KOREA), PTI: India scaled a historic first in the men's compound archery team event here on Sunday, winning the gold to make up for the disappointment of the women's team that failed to finish on the podium for the first time in the World Championships in eight years.

India's top qualifier Rishabh Yadav also returned with a double, bagging silver in the mixed team event with veteran Jyothi Surekha Vennam. At the same time, there was disappointment on the women's front as the team bowed out in the pre-quarterfinals to end a consistent medal run since 2017.

Mixed team silver

Earlier in the day, Yadav and Jyothi went down 155-157 to the Netherlands' Mike Schloesser, the world number one, and Sanne de Laat in the mixed team final to settle for silver.

The Indian pair had a one-point lead after the opening end but slipped in the second, where three 9s saw them trail 76-77.

HOCKEY ASIA CUP

India dethrone Korea to wear crown

Hosts post a dominant 4-1 win in final to book a WC spot

HITA PRAKASH
RAJGIR, DHNS

The stage was set with one last hurdle, beyond which awaited the Asia Cup trophy and, more importantly, a World Cup spot as big rewards.

Favourites and top team India's chase to grab hold of both ended successfully after scoring a 4-1 win over Korea in Rajgir on Sunday.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh's deceptive stick work got the party started for the hosts in the very first minute (29th second to be precise) of the game.

Beating three Korean players on the left flank, Harmanpreet provided the ball to Sukhjeet Singh who was quick in trapping and positioning it before reverse slapping the ball diagonally into the top right corner of the net.

With dominance attested, the lone blemish in the first quarter came when Jugraj Singh hit a penalty stroke straight to the stretched right hand of Korean goalkeeper Jaehan Kim to fumble the easiest of opportunities.

Harmanpreet set into motion another goal-scoring cycle. The 29-year-old skipper's scoop to Sanjay, on the right inside the D, was in-turn fed to Dilpreet Singh who slotted in the second goal in the 28th minute.

At halftime, India led 2-0 with as many as 11 circle penetrations against Korea's dismal two.

In the hunt for goals since the opening match in this tournament, 25-year-old Dilpreet went from one missed chance to another. His first goal in the third game against Kazakhstan perhaps injected confidence he was in search of. Relentless in his approach, the forward added his second goal of the night, this time a simple tap in, in the 45th minute to help India climb to 3-0 at the end of the third quarter.

Defender Amit Rohidas converted a penalty corner in the 50th minute to add his name to the scoresheet. An out-of-breath Korea managed to find a consolation goal through attacker Dain Son's flick in the 51st minute. But by then, the Indians' aggression, speed and smart play was too hot to handle for the defending champions.

India - lifting the continental championships for the fourth time after 2003, 2007 and 2017 - booked their ticket to the Netherlands and Belgium for the World Cup to be held between August 14-30 in 2026.

Malaysia third

World No. 12 Malaysia put away the heartbreak of missing a final spot to regroup and turn out on Sunday to score a 4-1 win against China to finish third on the podium. Striker Akhimullah Anuar, after going goalless against India and Korea in the Super 4s, added two more goals to his personal tally to become the top-scorer of the tournament with 12.

Norsyafiq Sumantri (8th) netted the opening goal while Syed Cholan added the fourth in the dying moments.

Result: Final: India: 4 (Sukhjeet Singh 1st, Dilpreet Singh 28th, 45th, Amit Rohidas 50th) bt Korea: 1 (D Son 51st).

Third place: Malaysia: 4 (Norsyafiq Sumantri 8th, Akhimullah Anuar 36th, 50th, Syed Cholan 59th) bt China: 1 (Jiesheng Gao 54th).

5-8 placings: Japan: 6 (Koji Yamasaki 9th, Ryosuke Shinohara 15th, 38th, 56th, Ken Nagayoshi 36th, Seren Tanaka 50th) bt Bangladesh: 1 (Amirul Islam 55th).

Player of the final and tournament: Abhishek

Indian players celebrate after scoring a goal during their victory against Korea in the final of the Asia Cup in Rajgir on Sunday. PTI

Capacity crowd enjoys the finale between India and Korea. PTI

Vaishali in joint lead with Lagno

SAMARKAND (UZBEKISTAN), PTI: Grandmaster R Vaishali stayed in front after a draw with Dinara Wagner of Germany but was joined by Kateryna Lagno of Russia in the lead after the end of the fourth round of FIDE Women's Grand Swiss, here on Sunday.

Lagno defeated Yuxin Song of China with white pieces, and it will be an all-important clash between her and Vaishali in the fifth round with the Indian playing white.

In the game against Dinara, defending champion Vaishali could do little with black pieces despite showing the right intentions by going for the Grunfeld defense.

In the Open section, top seed R Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by the world's youngest-ever Grandmaster Abhimanyu Mishra of the United States. Praggnanandhaa nearly outplayed his younger rival but the Indian-origin player put up a stiff resistance just when it seemed salvaging a draw would not be easy.

In an all-Indian duel, world champion D Gukesh played out a draw with Arjun Erigaisi who showed fine preparation with black pieces.

With seven rounds still remaining in the strongest Swiss tournament of the world, Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran retained his half-point lead taking himself to 3.5 points after a hard-fought draw with local hero Nodirbek Abdusattorov.

Defending champion in the Open section, Vidit Gujrathi also came back in reckoning with a victory over veteran Vasyl Ivanchuk of Ukraine.

◆ ON TV ◆

HOCKEY

Women's Asia Cup: Thailand vs Japan **(9:45 am)**; India vs Singapore **(12:0 pm)**; Malaysia vs. Korea **(2:15 pm)**; China vs Chinese Taipei **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2**.

FOOTBALL

FIFA WC qualifiers: Croatia vs Montenegro; Greece vs Denmark; Israel vs Italy; Switzerland vs Slovenia **(all 12:15 am on Tuesday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

ARCHERY

World Archery Championships: Compound men's quarterfinals **(6:30 am)** on **Sony Sports Ten 2**

Pacers complete the job for South Zone

Hosts set up summit clash with Central Zone who got the better of West Zone

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

South Zone fast bowlers were right on the money on the final morning of their Duleep Trophy semifinal against North Zone as they gained the all-important first-innings lead to set up a title clash against Central Zone here on Sunday.

Resuming on 278/5, North Zone's hopes of surpassing South Zone's daunting 536 hinged largely on how long overnight centurion Shubham Khajuria can bat and if the lower middle order can show the stomach for a fight. But the moment pacer V Koushik castled the Jammu and Kashmir batter's stumps in the second over of the day, the writing was on the wall for North and they never recovered from there to be shot out for 361 in 100.1 overs at BCCI's Centre of Excellence. The game meandering towards a draw, South Zone made the final by virtue of their first-innings lead.

The final between South Zone, who last won the title in 2023, and Central Zone, who batted out West Zone in the other semifinal, will be held at the same venue from Sept 11-15.

Although South were in an advantageous position at having scythed through half of North on the penultimate day, the job still had to be done on Sunday, especially with Khajuria (128) out in the middle. South, however, got what they wanted in the morning, overcast conditions that offered some help for the pacers on an otherwise benign pitch.

Military medium Koushik, known for his wicket-to-wicket bowling with the uncanny ability to force batters into errors, did exactly that with his third ball. He got the ball to swing in, beating the defences of a shell-shocked Khajuria to give South the start they envisioned. After that, the impressive Gurjanpreet Singh (4/96) and MD Nidheesh (3/82) took over to rattle North.

Central dominate

Central Zone almost threatened to demolish a star-studded West Zone before agreeing to a truce on the stroke of tea in the other semifinal.

Having already taken a 118-run first-innings lead on the third day itself and resuming on 556/8, Central's spot in the final was a foregone conclusion. The game did offer some thrill when Central, after being bowled out for 600, had West in deep trouble at 168/6 midway through the second session.

But Tanush Kotian bailed West out with a gutsy unbeaten 40, forging a 37-run stand for the seventh wicket with Tushar Deshpande (12). Although Central Zone hit back by reducing West to 216/8, they decided to shake hands at tea to conserve their energy for the final.

Brief scores: South Zone: 536 & 95/1 in 24.4 overs (N Jagadeesan 52 n.o.) drew with North Zone (O/n: 278/5): 361 all out in 100.1 overs (Shubham Khajuria 128, Ayush Badoni 40, Nishant Sindhu 82, Mayank Dagar 31; MD Nidheesh 3-82, Gurjapneet Singh 4-96). **Result:** South advanced to the final by virtue of first innings lead. **PoM:** N Jagadeesan.
West Zone: 438 & 216/8 in 53.3 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 64, Aarya Desai 35, Tanush Kotian 40 n.o.; Harsh Dubey 3-96, Saransh Jain 5-84) drew with Central Zone (556/8): 600 all out in 164.3 overs (Aayush Pandey 40, Danish Malewar 76, Shubham Sharma 96, Rajat Patidar 77, Upendra Yadav 87, Harsh Dubey 75, Saransh Jain 63 n.o., Deepak Chahar 33; Arzan Nagaswalla 3-57, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4-130). **Result:** Central advanced to the final by virtue of first innings lead. **PoM:** Saransh Jain.
Final: South Zone vs Central Zone (Sept 11-15, BCCI's CoE).

West Zone's Aarya Desai being stumped by Central Zone wicketkeeper Upendra Yadav on the final day of their Duleep Trophy semifinal in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

Smaran, Siddarth in SZ squad

Rising Karnataka batter Ravichandran Smaran and Andre Siddarth of Tamil Nadu were on Sunday added to South Zone squad for the Duleep Trophy final against Central Zone in the five-day title clash at the BCCI Centre of Excellence grounds from September 11, reports DHNS.

Smaran and Siddarth, who were standbys for the semifinal, were added to the main squad after N Jagadeesan and Devdutt Padikkal were drafted into the India A squad for the two unofficial Tests against Australia at Lucknow.

Updates South Zone squad for Duleep Trophy final: Mohammed Azharuddeen (c & wk), Ricky Bhui (vc), Ravichandran Smaran, Kale M, Sheikh Rasheed, Tanmay Agarwal, Salman Nizar, Andre Siddarth, Tanay Thyagarajan, Gurjapneet Singh, MD Nidheesh, Vasuki Koushik, Ankit Sharma, T Vijay, Basil NP. **Standbys**: Mohit Redkar, Snehal Kautankar, Eden Apple Tom, Ajay Rohera, G Anikeeth Reddy.

Secretary's XI post 10-wicket victory

BENGALURU, DHNS

KSCA Secretary's XI posted a comfortable 10-wicket victory over Gujarat Cricket Association on the fourth and final day of the match in the Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah Memorial Tournament here on Sunday.

GCA, overnight 195/7, were bundled out for 240. They could only set a target of six runs after being asked to follow on the previous day.

Japagnya Bhatt (0) and Hemang Patel (25) were removed within the first three overs of the day by Dhruv P as GCA stared at an innings defeat. However, No. 11 Jay Malusare (24 not out) forged a 42-run stand with Jay Desai (14) for the last wicket, ensuring they stretched the imminent defeat with semblance of respect.

Venkatesh M (2/53) broke the partnership before Secretary XI knocked off the target.

Thrilling tie

Meanwhile, Goa and Vidarbha played out a thrilling and rare tie as Vidarbha lost their last three wickets with just a run needed to win. Mohit Redkar (5/89) took two of the wickets in the final over of the match.

Brief scores: At Kini Sports: KSCA Secretary's XI: 373 all out & 7/0 in 1.2 overs bt GCA: 138 all out & (O/n: 195/7): 240 all out in 69.2 overs (Abhishek Desai 47, Umang Kumar 73, Hemang Patel 25; Madhav P Bajaj 3-73, Dhruv P 4-65, Venkatesh M 2-51).
At M Chinnaswamy Stadium: Goa CA: 211 & (O/n:104/2): 240 all out tied with Vidarbha Cricket Association: 208 all out & 243 all out in 67 overs (Atharva Taide 62, Aman Mokhade 95; Mohit Redkar 5-89, Darshan Mishal 4-71).
At Alur 2: KSCA President's XI: 250 all out drew with Maharashtra CA: (O/n: 293/5): 303/5 in 83 overs (Anirudha Sabale 43, Digvijay Patil 68, Mandar Bhandari 60, Mizaan Sayyed 71 n.o., Satyajeet Bachhav 29 n.o.; Shreesha S Achar 2-91). (Match affected due to wet outfield.)
At IAF: Chhattisgarh State CS: 254 all out & 121/3 in 41 overs drew with KSCA XI: 250 all out
At SDNRW: Andhra CA: 257 & (O/n: 20/2): 350/9 dec in 107 overs (Gnaneswar CR 34, Ashwin Hebbar 70, Yara Sandeep 35, Revanth Reddy 100, KSN Raju 87; Ninad Rathwa 4-99, Mahesh Pithiya 5-115) drew with Baroda Cricket Association: 424/9 dec & 5/0 in 2 overs
At Alur 3: MPCA: (O/n: 333/8): 346 all out in 124.3 overs (Yash Dubey 38, Kushagra Nagar 35, Arshad Khan 102; Ajoy Sarkar 2-83, Rana Datta 3-21, Bikram Debnath 2-39, Sandip Sarkar 3-77) drew with Tripura CA: 237/5 in 72 overs (Bikram Kumar Das 53, Hrituraj Ghosh Roy 33, Hanuma Vihari 56, Vijay Shankar 68 n.o.; Arshad Khan 2-32). (Match affected due to wet outfield.).

Secretary's XI pacer Venkatesh M claimed two more wickets to go with his fifer in the first innings and a useful 50.

Embarking on a new T20 journey sans Kohli, Rohit

For the first time since 2007, India enter a global event without any of the duo

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

For the first time in recent memory, India didn't embark on a major tour as a collective. Bucking convention and instead embracing logistical convenience, the extended contingent for the T20 Asia Cup, beginning in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, arrived in Dubai on Thursday in various batches, from different cities. Not ideal, some might insist, and one can't fault them for that, no matter ease of travel.

This Asia Cup, with hosts Board of Control for Cricket in India opting to stage the tournament in the Emirates, will witness another, more significant first. Not since Rohit Sharma played in the inaugural T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2007 have India gone into a global or continental limited-overs tournament without at least one of Rohit or Virat Kohli in the mix. It's been 14 months since the iconic duo pulled the plug on their international 20-over careers and India have been involved in five successful series in the intervening period, but bilateral series aren't quite the same as a multi-team event.

How much India will miss the celebrated duo as they kickstart the first stage of preparations for the T20 World Cup early next year remains to be seen. They have coped excellently well under new captain Suryakumar Yadav, but tournament play demands the ability to handle pressure more than bilateral faceoffs do. There clearly therefore is no substitute for experience, but time doesn't stand still for anyone. In any case, who can question Rohit and Kohli (or for that matter Ravindra Jadeja) wanting to go out on the ultimate high?

While Rohit holds the record, alongside effervescent Aussie Glenn Maxwell, for the most hundreds (five) in T20Is, Kohli's storied career is studded with stunning edifices, none more spectacular than his stunning, unbeaten 82 against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup clash in Melbourne in October 2022. Without being in the same league as Rohit when it comes to explosiveness, Kohli was able to marry flair and consistency extraordinarily brilliantly, evidenced by a career average of 48.69 at a perfectly acceptable strike-rate of 137.04 from 125 matches.

Kohli's final international hurrah in T20s came with the Player of the Match award in the World Cup title clash against South Africa last year. His 76, which went from laboured to electric in a flash, was the cornerstone around which India posted a competitive 176 for seven, though it needed the genius of Jasprit Bumrah, the intelligence of Hardik Pandya and the unmatched athleticism of Suryakumar for Rohit to erase the bitter disappointment of defeat in the 50-over World Cup final just seven and a half months back.

Suryakumar wouldn't have thought then that he would be tasked with carrying the legacy forward. The next three weeks represent his biggest challenge to date as skipper. He will take heart from having Bumrah and Pandya in his corner, as well as from the remarkably strong core group that has relegated Shreyas Iyer, no less, to the sidelines. But more than anyone else, Suryakumar will be seized by the need to rediscover his mojo at the highest level. His last eight hits have yielded a mere 54 runs, a record the skipper will be desperate to correct, given how firm a believer he is in leading from the front.

India took Sunday off after two gruelling training sessions at the ICC Academy Oval in enervating heat. They launch their campaign on Wednesday, against home favourites UAE, here in Dubai.

How India cope without the celebrated duo of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli remains to be seen when the Asia Cup commences in the UAE on Tuesday. PTI

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com